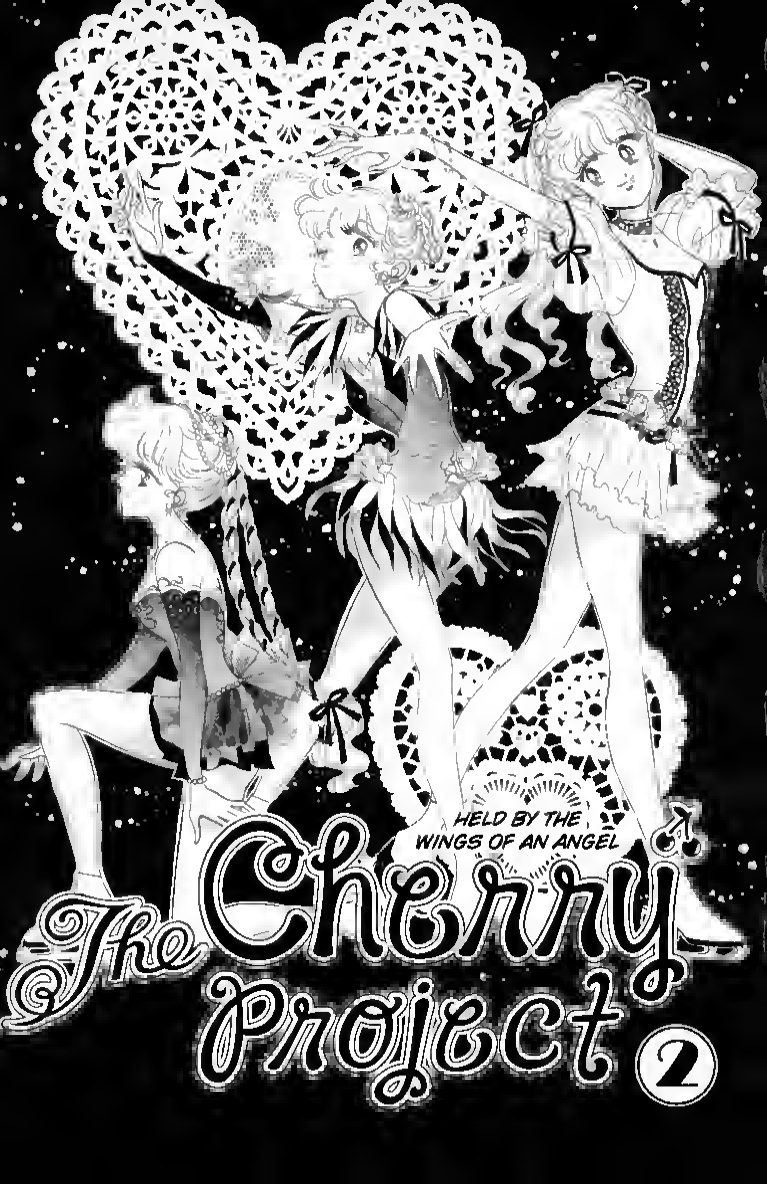
THE フェアリープロジェクト ②
KC
武内直子


HELD BY THE
WINGS OF AN ANGEL
The Cherry Project
2

Cast So Far

NISHIMURA YUNI

CHIERI'S BEST FRIEND. DIRECTOR OF PROJECT COSTUME DESIGN.

FUJIWARA HIROSHI

TSUZUKI'S BEST FRIEND. DIRECTOR OF PROJECT MUSIC COORDINATION.

AKIYAMA KOUICHI

TSUZUKI'S BEST FRIEND. DIRECTOR OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

COACH MORI

CHIERI'S COACH, ORIGINALLY USED TO COACH TSUZUKI.

MISS HARUNA SAKURADA

CHIERI'S HOMEROOM TEACHER. VERY KIND.

CHIERI'S DAD

THE FORMER ALL JAPAN CHAMPION. WAS AN OLYMPIC ATHELETE.

The Cherry Project

THE CHERRY PROJECT BEGAN WHEN ASUKA CHIERI DECIDED TO BECOME AN AMAZING FIGURE SKATER FOR THE SAKE OF PUTTING ON A SHOW FOR HER SCHOOL FESTIVAL. THE PROJECT MEMBERS ARE: TSUZUKI, KOUICHI, HIROSHI, AND YUNI. THE THREE BOYS IN THE GROUP ARE ON A MISSION. THEY ARE ON A QUEST TO FIND A PAIR SKATING PARTNER FOR TSUZUKI, SO THAT HE CAN BECOME WORLD CHAMPION AT THE SHCOOL FESTIVAL, CHIERI PERFORMS WELL ENOUGH THAT SHE IS INSPIRED TO WORK HER HARDEST TO BECOME A TRUE FIGURE SKATER. SHE SHOCKS THE CROWD WITH HER SKILL AND DETERMINATION.

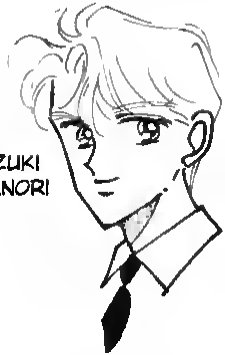
AFTERWARDS, SHE CHALLENGES HER RIVAL, THE PRINCESS OF THE SKATING CLUB WORLD, AND BEGINS TO TAKE A SERIES OF BADGE TESTS TO QUALIFY TO TAKE ON THE REIGNING CHAMPION.

AT THIS POINT IN THE STORY, CHIERI HAS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED ALMOST EVERY TEST TO QUALIFY TO TAKE ON THE SKATE CLUB CHAMPION. ALL EXCEPT ONE. BUT AS A PRANK, SOMEONE HAS PLACED GLASS IN HER SKATE SHOE, CAUSING HER AGONIZING PAIN, JUST BEFORE SHE BEGINS THE LAST TEST...

The

ASUKA CHIERI

NICKNAMED CHERRY. THE PROTAGONIST OF THIS STORY. SHE IS A 7TH GRADE GIRL WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE.



TSUZUKI MASANORI

A GENIUS FIGURE SKATER. LOOKING FOR A PAIR SKATING PARTNER. VERY COOL.

THE PRINCESS

HER REAL NAME IS AKIYAMA CANTY. SHE IS THE PRINCESS OF THE SKATING CLUB. SHE IS BEAUTIFUL BUT ICY COLD.

throb

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

throb

IT HURTS

HURRY AND PROCEED TO THE RINK!

I CAN'T GO TO THE RINK

The Cherry Project

Hello! This is Cherry Project volume 2. I'm so glad I've reached two volumes! ♡ Every day I have been so happy lately. What about you? ♡ Ever since I moved from Sendai to Tokyo I've been going on drives all the way to Yokohama (seriously!) (I love driving!)

I love the drive through the hills and forests it's so romantic (and beautiful!) Lately I've been going to the Yokohama Intercontinental Hotel, having milk tea while I do my work. (I just love American style hotels!)

_____ I'm so happy these days, every day has been wonderful from the moment I wake up ♡

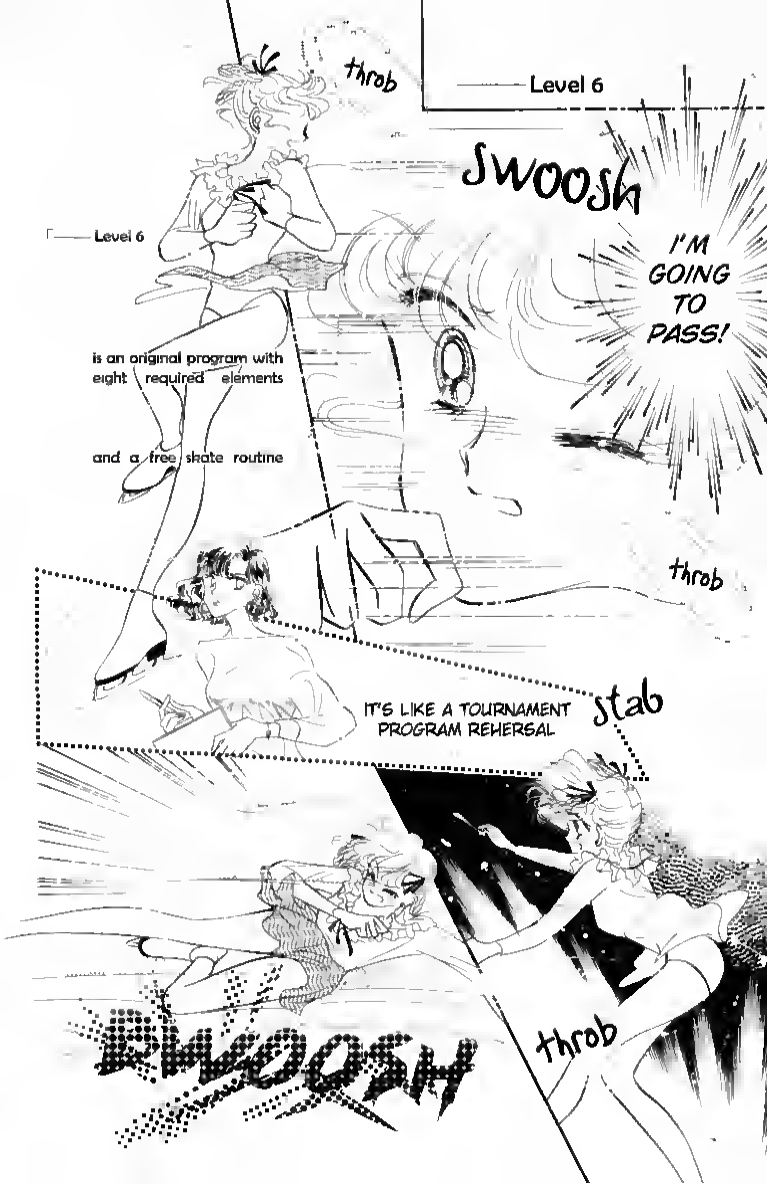
_____ Thank you so much for reading Cherry

1991 9 23

Nanko ♡

Takeuchi

throb
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF HIM I'M HERE!!
YOU'VE ONLY MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER!
GRIP
OW
THERE'S JUST ONE MORE LEVEL. I CAN POWER THROUGH THIS.
throb
throb


throb
Level 6
swoosh
I'M GOING TO PASS!
Level 6
is an original program with eight required elements
and a free skate routine
throb
IT'S LIKE A TOURNAMENT PROGRAM REHERSAL
stab
throb
swoosh

giggle
YEAH! GO AHEAD AND CRY!
I THINK IT'D BE FUNNY TO SEE HER CRYING ON THE ICE RINK!
chatter
chatter
SERVES HER RIGHT!
SHE CAN'T SKATE WITH THAT LEG!
SHE JUST MESSED UP THE DOUBLE! THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL PASS LEVEL 6!
MY RIGHT LEG IS SCREWING UP MY PERFORMANCE... I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE!
throb
throb
fwoosh
SHE'S BEEN SKATING NOW FOR ALMOST FIVE HOURS
HAS SHE REACHED HER BREAKING POINT?
SHE'S LOSING HER STEPS.
SHE'S A BIT SHAKY.

End the Original Program
CONTINUE FORWARD
throb
WITH THE FREE SKATE ROUTINE.
pant
pant
JUST ONE MORE LEVEL. ONE MORE AND YOU'RE DONE, CHIERI
Pant
pant
IT HURTS... NO, I'VE GOT TO MAKE MYSELF THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE
throb
PANT
PANT
pant
SOMETHING ELSE
THE MUSIC IS STARTING.
COACH! I-
I'LL DESIGN YOUR PROGRAM. WHAT MUSIC WOULD YOU LIKE TO SKATE TO?

OH, HIROSHI REALLY DID COME UP WITH GREAT MUSIC
I WANT TO SKATE TO THE MUSICAL FROM MY SCHOOL FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE!
I LOVE LISTENING TO THIS GREAT BEAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN
THIS IS THE MUSIC I PRACTICED TO WITH TSUZUKI TIME AND TIME AGAIN
I SAW HIM SKATING TO THIS MUSIC WITH ALL HIS HEART.
SO MANY TIMES.

WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I CAN SEE HIM FLOATING AROUND.
AS IF ON THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL.
TSUZUKI MASANORI P!

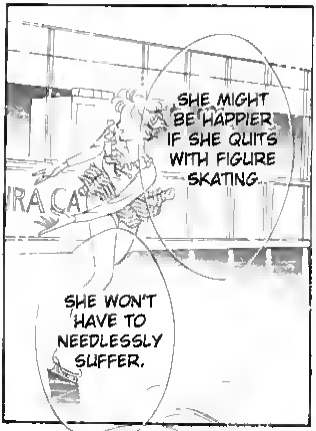
I AM
ON THE RINK, RIGHT NOW
TSUZUKI...
SCARED, TSUZUKI?
AREN'T YOU

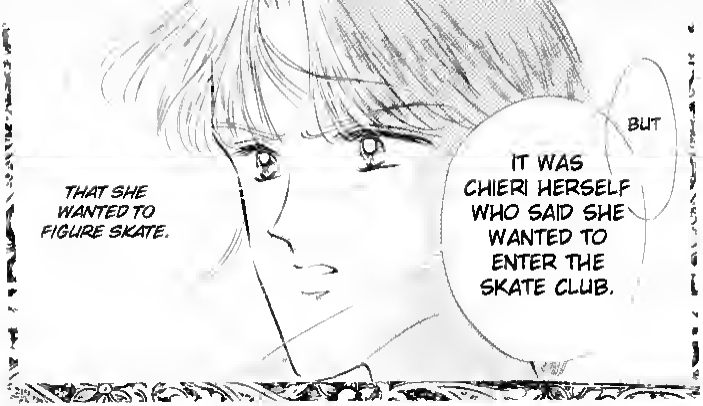
IS THIS WHAT WE SAW WHEN WE FIRST MET CHIERI?
HER ABSORPTION OF YOUR TECHNIQUE IS SO STUNNING, THAT IT'S FRIGHTENING
LOOK AT HER. THE COPY MACHINE IS MAKING A PERFECT REPRODUCTION OF YOUR WORK
bang
IF YOU TWO PAIR SKATED TOGETHER, YOU'D SKATE WITH PERFECT UNISON
I DON'T NEED A COPY OF MYSELF.
You're right. She's lacking the most important thing.

BUT I BELIEVE WE RUINED IT BY RUSHING TOO MUCH
AT FIRST IT SEEMED LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER
MASANORI, THINK!
SHE CAN'T CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS.
WHAT WILL SHE DO NEXT?
WHAT SHOULD I DO.....
IT'S LIKE HIROSHI SAID. IT'S FATAL. NO WAY OUT.
EVEN IF SHE STARTS SINGLES SKATING,
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SKILL SHE HAS, ALL SHE CAN DO IS IMITATE
SHE DOESN'T HAVE HER OWN SKATING STYLE

——No way out!

(THERE'S NO WAY FOR CHIERI!)





IT'S TOO LATE TO TURN BACK NOW.

I WANT US TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP HER.
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE CHIERI FAIL IN THE END!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TSUZUKI ?!

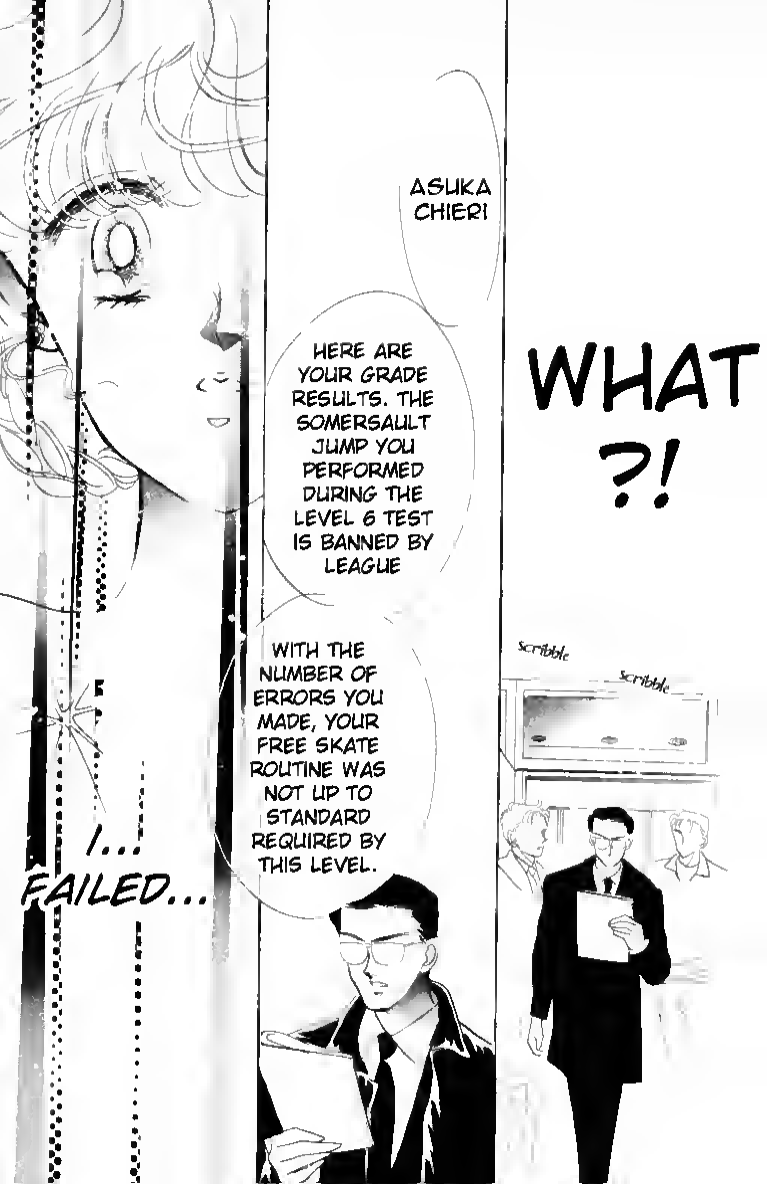
thud
DO YOU STILL WANT CHIERI AS YOUR PAIR PARTNER?!
OR ARE YOU THINKING OF...
SOMETHING ELSE?
IS SHE AVOIDING DOING JUMPS TO PROTECT HER RIGHT LEG?
THAT'S WEIRD.

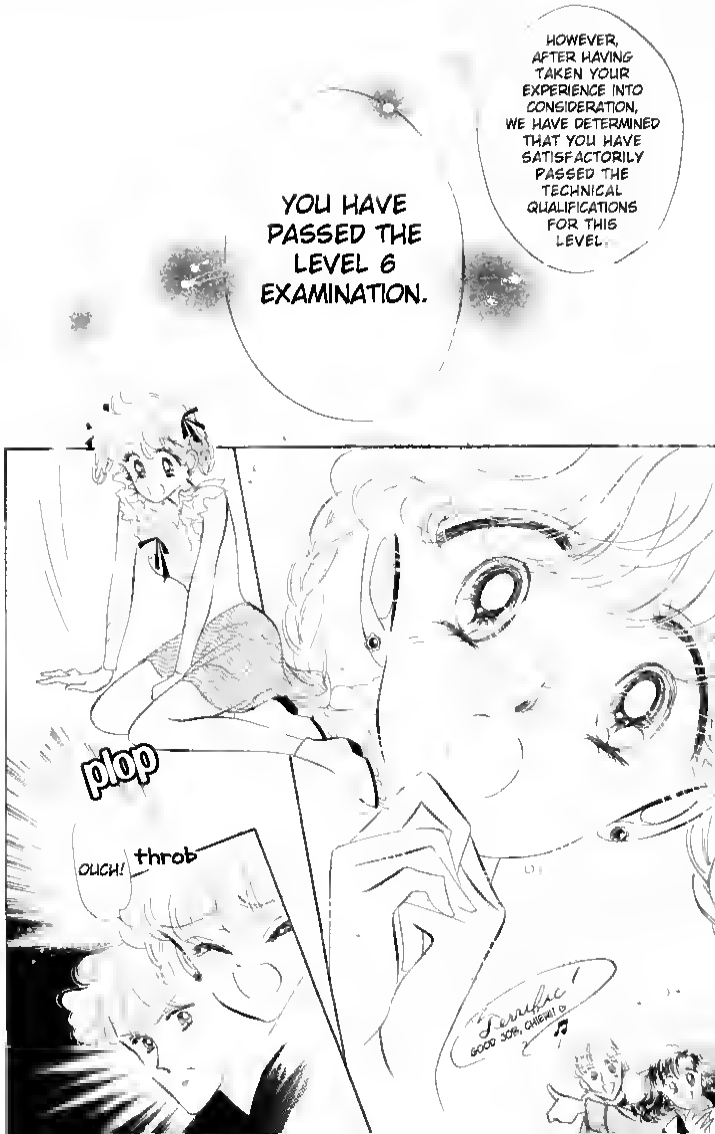
THE MUSIC WILL END SOON.
throb
I'VE MESSED UP SO MUCH ALREADY
swing
TSUZUKI!?
I'VE GOTTA FINISH WITH A TRIPLE.
Bwooooosh
throb
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING, I'LL FAIL!
I HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THOSE MISTAKES WITH A BIG FINISH!!!
throb
MY LEG HAS GONE NUMB
IF I DO A LOOP OR FLIP WITH MY LEFT LEFT, I CAN GET BY WITHOUT USING MY RIGHT.
UGH, BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT FROM THIS NEXT STEP...
Throb
Throb

TSUZUKI! I CAN'T DO IT!
IF I USE BOTH MY LEGS, THEN...
Part
UGH, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HESITATE!!

A BACK FLIP?!
TSUZUKI'S SIGNATURE MOVE!
CHIERI!
I DID IT!!

MISS ASUKA!
chatter
I'M FINISHED!
HOW DID YOU...
WITH ALL THOSE ERRORS YOU MADE... YOU FINISHED WITH THAT MOVE!
throb
smirk
throb
THAT MOVE IS BANNED!
YOU CAN'T DO BACK FLIPS OUTSIDE OF EXHIBITIONS AND REGULAR SHOWS!
part
I...
I-
part
CHIERI!


ASUKA CHIER!
HERE ARE YOUR GRADE RESULTS. THE SOMERSAULT JUMP YOU PERFORMED DURING THE LEVEL 6 TEST IS BANNED BY LEAGUE
WITH THE NUMBER OF ERRORS YOU MADE, YOUR FREE SKATE ROUTINE WAS NOT UP TO STANDARD REQUIRED BY THIS LEVEL.
I... FAILED...
WHAT ?!
Scribble
Scribble


HOWEVER, AFTER HAVING TAKEN YOUR EXPERIENCE INTO CONSIDERATION, WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT YOU HAVE SATISFACTORILY PASSED THE TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS LEVEL.
YOU HAVE PASSED THE LEVEL 6 EXAMINATION.
pop
OUCH! throb
Terrific!
GOOD JOB, CHERI!

YOUR FOOT!
I CUT IT JUST BEFORE I BEGAN TO SKATE.
TAKE YOUR SHOE OFF!
gasp
HURRY UP!
YOUR SHOE!
SO SHE SKATED HER ENTIRE PROGRAM AND HER SKATE SKATE ROUTINE WITH HER FOOT LIKE THAT?
SHE HAS INCREDIBLE WILL POWER...
YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER THE BLOCK TOURNAMENT LIKE THIS.

I'LL BE ABLE TO PERFORM THERE!
THE BLOCK TOURNAMENT
I'LL BE OKAY. I'M GOING TO ENTER
THIS IS...
SPECIAL TREATMENT, FAVORITISM! I DON'T THINK THAT THE JUDGEMENT IS FAIR!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS!
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
SHE ONLY GOT THIS FAR BECAUSE OF WHO HER FATHER IS.
I THINK IT'S SUSPICIOUS, TOO

PRINCESS!
gasp
PRINCESS ?
YOU KNOW THERE ARE SPECIAL RANKINGS HERE, AM I WRONG ABOUT THAT?
SPECIAL TREATMENT, HUH? WE'VE BOTH ENTERED ALL OUR TOURNAMENTS ABROAD ONLY BECAUSE OF THE LEAGUE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.
WE ONLY GIVE SPOTS TO PEOPLE WITH TALENT AND POTENTIAL. PERHAPS IT IS YOUR JEALOUSY THAT YOU AREN'T SO SUCCESSFUL...
WE ARE NOT GIVING SPECIAL TREATMENT.
BUT
YOU MEAN, THE DAUGHTER OF THE ALL-JAPAN NATIONAL CHAMPION AND OLYMPIC MEDALIST?
... THAT'S MAKING YOU CLAIM SUCH OUTRAGEOUS THINGS?
Blush
fwish
chatter
chatter

RETURN TO PRACTICE. WE'LL SEE WHEN SHE COMPETES IN THE TOURNAMENT
WHETHER SHE'S REALLY CAPABLE OR NOT.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO ARGUE ABOUT THIS.
YOU PASSED
I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR YOU, FOR NOW
TSUZUKI
chatter
YEAH, WE'LL SEE HER IN THE TOURNAMENT. I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT HER.
THAT'S THE PRINCESS FOR YOU, ALL RIGHT.
chatter

WHAT ?!
YOUR FATHER'S INFLUENCE IS PART OF YOUR ABILITY, YOU KNOW
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS, YOU SHOULD LOOK AT YOUR ADVANTAGE AS A TOOL TO USE AGAINST HER.
NOT EVERYONE IS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE THE BLOOD OF AN ALL-JAPAN CHAMPION AND OLYMPIAN IN THEIR VEINS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF HIS INFLUENCE!

IF YOU DON'T LIKE PEOPLE SAYING THAT
THEN PROVE YOURSELF ON THE RINK.
Dash
THIS IS HORRIBLE! NONE OF THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY DAD!
THEN AGAIN, I DID MAKE SO MANY MISTAKES ...

tap
FAVORING...
NO. I'M NOT BEING FAVORED. I MADE IT THIS FAR ON MY OWN STRENGTH, DIDN'T I?
DON'T BE SO PROUD OF YOURSELF BECAUSE THEY'RE FAVORING YOU!
badum
whisper
I DIDN'T INTEND ON COMING HERE, BUT
!
CONGRATS ON PASSING YOUR BADGE TESTS
I GUESS THIS IS OFFICIALLY YOUR SINGLES DEBUT.
HIROSHI ?!

wobble
SO YOU CAME, TOO.
HIROSHI
ALL THREE OF YOU CAME TO WATCH ME TAKE MY BADGE TESTS?
BUT IT'S A BETTER IDEA TO NURSE THAT FOOT INSTEAD
YOU CAN RUN AWAY IF YOU WANT.
SO YOU REALLY WERE INJURED...?
badum
WE JUST HAVE TO BEGIN SEARCHING FOR A NEW PARTNER FOR TSUZUKI.
WE'RE NOT WORRIED
SINCE YOU'VE PASSED LEVEL 6 AND HAVE COACH MORI HELPING YOU

We22!

I just finished moving again. This time I am living in Azabu Juuban in Tokyo, in Shuutengai. There is a food vendor near my home that sells taiyaki! ♡ (Pancake filled with bean jam) Tee hee! ♡~

When I was in college I used to sneak out of my dorm to have those as a snack.

I live near a lot of meat places now. Lately I've been spending my nights driving on the expressway, watching the lights zoom by at night. It's like watching a science fiction scene, it's so beautiful.

Where I live now is a pretty mysterious little town. There are tons of little gyms all over the place, and all of the streets are called 'hashi'. There's 'ist hachi' '2nd hashi' 'third hachi' 'fourth hachi' and so on. I love listening to the local bus call out the 'hashi' stops - it's so cute. ♡ It's funny...now that I have a car I live in an area where I don't need one. ♡"

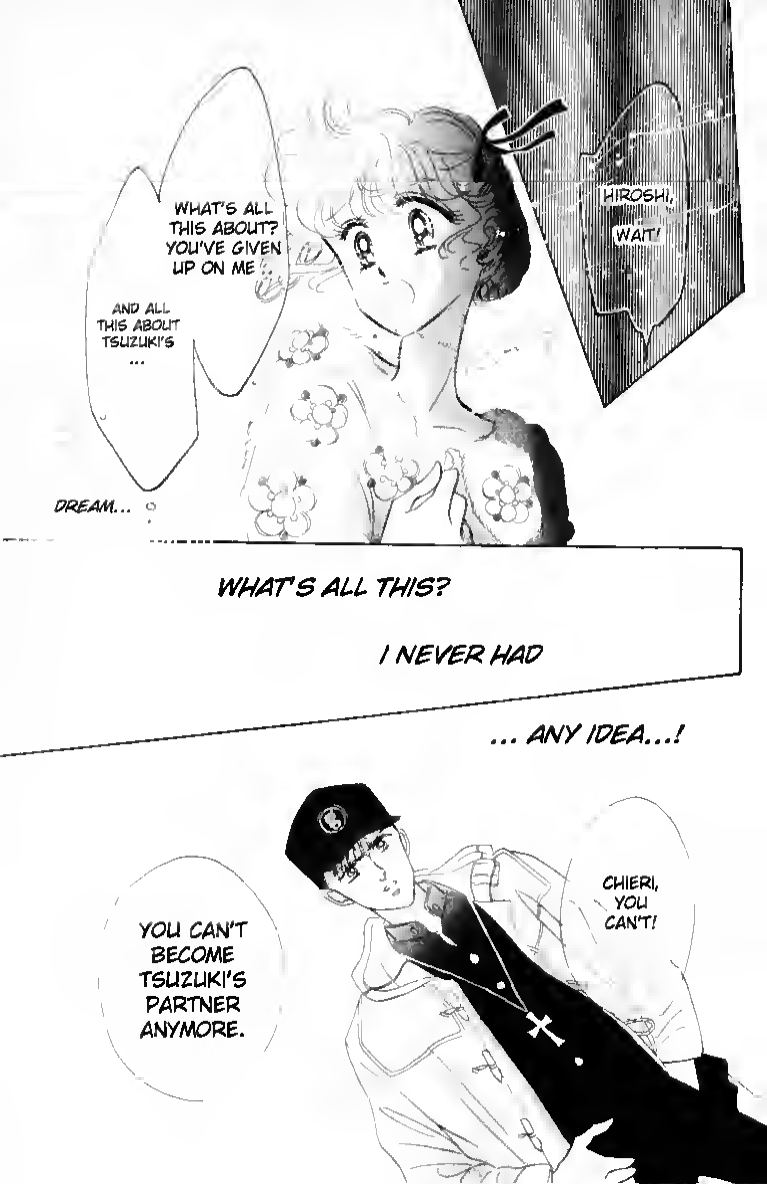
Today I'm going to go swimming. It feels great to be able to do it locally! ♡

My room is really small but there's so much to do, there's no point in staying home.

I hope you're all doing well, and I'll keep working hard at my job! ♡"

...GIVEN UP...

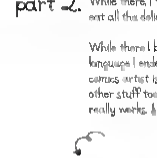
EVER SINCE I KNEW IT WAS TSUZUKI'S DREAM TO PAIR SKATE
I KNEW I WANTED TO BECOME TSUZUKI'S PARTNER.
TSUZUKI'S DREAM....
...IS TO PAIR SKATE?!
I HAD NO IDEA!


HIROSHI, WAIT!
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON ME...
AND ALL THIS ABOUT TSUZUKI'S ...
DREAM...
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
I NEVER HAD
... ANY IDEA...!
CHIERI, YOU CAN'T!
YOU CAN'T BECOME TSUZUKI'S PARTNER ANYMORE.

part 2.

Anyway, after finishing my latest round of work, I decided to go on a trip to Hong Kong. (Mr. Editor I'm sorry! &) While there, I took a tour of the famous Medical Research Institute University! (I swear I didn't just go to China to eat all the delicious food! &)

While there I bought some medicine for a friend (what a weird question, right? &) But since I couldn't speak the language I ended up getting too much. While I was there, I kept explaining to people that I'm a chemist (because being a comics artist isn't exactly a good title over there. Ahh well! ^^) I also bought a lot of medicinal salves (like oils) and other stuff too. I've noticed that with Chinese medicine, the junk stuff is often intermingled in with the med cine that really works. &



Anyway, while I was browsing the medicinal shops, I found this really awesome, mint-green glass antique perfume bottle. It has this beautiful spray nozzle that, when squeezed, sprays a delicate scented mist through the air.

Oh! While in Hong Kong, I also tried a super vitamin (? &) called [851-A] at the Beiyang Dolife Laboratories. There was also a medicine that promised that (You could restore your adolescent beauty with this simple pill.) - I bought it simply because there was a pamphlet for it in Japanese. I know I'm a bit crazy. & I also bought tweezers in the [101]and [102] sizes, whatever that means. I didn't really understand most of the naming conventions for most of the items I got on my trip. &

The most amusing thing I bought was a weight loss supplement called [Anti Fat Pill]! For the first 7 days, you're supposed to take two pills. Then, after the 8th day, you start taking 4. Then, after the 15th day, you take 6. Then, after 22 days, you take 12 pills... you just keep taking more and more, and that scared me off. & I think I'd rather get fat than take all those pills... & Incidentally, have you ever heard of? Anti Fat Pills? They have the same active ingredient as laxative tea, heh!

My Research Travels - part 1

In book one of the Cherry Project in chapter 1, I wrote about My Trip Abroad During Serialization, where I talked about my personal experiences during that time. (My schedule was really tight, it was tough! ;) I should have called that piece (My Research Trip to New York).

I went to New York to watch figure skating. It was expensive there, I couldn't catch a break! ;(;) I went to all the famous spots, like 5th Avenue, and then to the very top of the Rockefeller Center building, where there's an ice rink! Me and Ms. Akimato-san (from Nakayoshi) took it all in! ♡

During Christmas time in New York, the entire city becomes a world full of toys. It's so cute! ♡

The truth is, I'm really terrible at speaking English. Whenever I've gone abroad to America, or Europe, or anywhere, not to brag, but (I don't mean to brag ;(;)) I never speak anything but Japanese. Jeez — (-_-;) Ano! I always pledge to my friends that I'm going to make at least one acquaintance abroad somehow. My one friend is a Queen over me when it comes to speaking other languages... sob sob ;(

But that's because I hate English. A long time ago, my mom tried to make us all speak English at home, but since I was bad at it I just ended up going hungry back then. I guess I should have paid attention back then.

Yup (-_-;)

badum
badum
WHY AM I NO GOOD?
PLEASE!
throb
CAN'T YOU
PLEASE
PLEASE, HIROSHI, DON'T SAY THAT!
WAIT FOR ME?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT!
TSUZUKI MUST QUIT SKATING
AS SOON AS HE LEAVES MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WHAT ?!

THE HEIR TO THIS COMPANY
THE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION TSUZUKI GROUP, HEADQUARTERED IN NEW YORK, HAS TWO THOUSAND SUBSIDIARIES AND ASSETS ESTIMATED AT OVER 500 BILLION DOLLARS.
IT'S NEXT LEADER WILL BE TSUZUKI.
AS SOON AS HE ENTERS HIGH SCHOOL, HE MUST DEVOTE HIMSELF TO STUDYING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT, SO THAT HE CAN EFFECTIVELY RUN HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS.
HE WILL BE FORCED TO QUIT SKATING.

JUST A LITTLE OVER A YEAR...
... AND THEN TSUZUKI MUST QUIT SKATING...?
THAT'S WHY HE SUDDENLY GAVE UP HIS SEAT AS WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION...
TSUZUKI ONLY HAS A LITTLE OVER A YEAR LEFT TO FULFILL HIS DREAM.
... AND BEGAN SEARCHING FOR A PARTNER..
TSUZUKI'S DREAM WAS TO TAKE THE JAPAN, AND THEN THE WORLD TITLE, AS A PAIR SKATER, JUST LIKE HE DID IN THE SINGLES DIVISION.

BUT IF WE CAN'T FIND THE PERFECT PARTNER FOR HIM, THEN...
... I'VE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH.
TSUZUKI WANTS TO DO PAIR SKATING...
...
I'M SORRY.
badum
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY
YOU'RE SORRY...
badum

GRAB
WAHH!
HIROSHI
gasp
HIROSHI?!
badum
blush
HIROSHI, YOU CAME TO SEE CHIERI, TOO?
tmp
Asuka Chieri
Qualified Badged Entrants
PASSED COMPETITORS
Asuka Chieri
sobbb
sobbb

RIGHT, HIROSHI?! ♡
YOU'VE GOTTA CONGRATULATE CHIERI NOW
LET GO OF ME, I GET IT!! ☆
SHE'S THE SECOND PERSON EVER TO PASS ALL SIX BADGE TESTS AT ONCE, JUST LIKE TSUZUKI.
WHAT?
badum
TSUZUKI DID THIS, TOO...
CUT IT OUT!
BUT HE WAS A LITTLE BIT YOUNGER WHEN HE DID IT, THOUGH.
badum
I CAN'T EVEN LOOK TSUZUKI IN THE EYES...
badum
N-NO ...
YOU DON'T HAVE PRACTICE ON SUNDAYS, DO YOU?
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR TOMORROW?

WERE YOU BULLYING HER AGAIN?
!
echo
YOU NEVER HAVE ANYTHING NICE TO SAY ABOUT ANYONE
turn
TOO COLD AND MEAN TO CARE...
YOU'RE JUST
smile
I-IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!
NEVER ANYTHING ...

sigh
WELL?!
TEE HEE
YOU PASSED, DIDN'T YOU?!
HEE HEE
TODAY I AM TOTALLY
EXHAUSTED. I DID TOO MUCH.
struggle
IS HE REALLY THAT GREAT?
WAS IT REALLY BECAUSE OF MY DAD?
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT WE CELEBRATE WITH SOME FRENCH CUISINE? DAD'S SPECIALTY!
Maybe we'll have some wine too~
WHATEVER YOU WANT, I'LL EAT ANYTHING

I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I HEARD THAT I HAD PASSED THE BADGE TEST
BUT NOW I'M NOT HAPPY AT ALL ...
THE HEIR OF THE TSUZUKI GROUP?
WORLD TITLE IN PAIR SKATING ?
THAT SEEMS LIKE...
... ANOTHER WORLD...
throb

... I FEEL SO STUPID

BUT MAYBE I REALLY WAS THINKING ONLY ABOUT MYSELF
WHEN FROM THE BEGINNING
MY HOPES WERE ALREADY TOO HIGH
WANTING TO PAIR SKATE WITH TSUZUKI...
Tsuzuki Manor
MY FATHER ?
THAT'S A RARITY
Today you will be dining with the master of the house
OH, OKAY.
click
Dinner has been prepared
fwish
They have an intercom.

clunk
clunk
I HEAR
THAT YOU'VE BEEN GOING OFF ON YOUR OWN A LOT LATELY.
IF THIS IS ABOUT THE RINK,
IT WAS JUST FOR SKATING AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
THAT'S WHY I HAD A TEMPORARY RINK BUILT THERE.
SKATING, HUH?
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DECIDED TO TRANSFER SCHOOLS ...

IT FEELS STRANGE TO KEEP GIVING ENDOWMENTS TO YOUR OLD ACADEMY WHEN YOU NO LONGER ATTEND THERE.
BUT WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO YOUR FORMER SCHOOL?
I'M STILL RANKED AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS.
IF THIS IS ABOUT MY GRADES,
clatter
!!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK
ANYBODY CAN BE A SKATER.

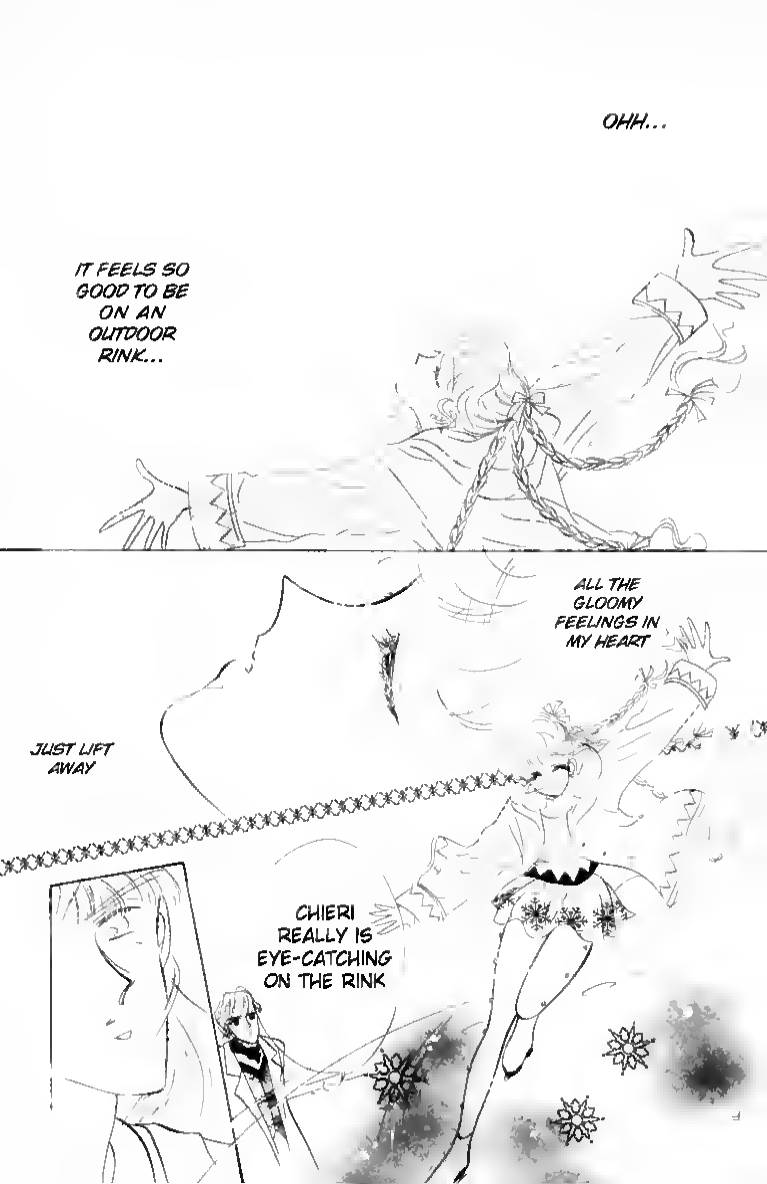
ANYBODY CAN PRANCE AROUND ON TOP OF THE ICE ...
BUT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BE MY SUCCESSOR. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO START PREPARING FOR THAT DAY RIGHT AWAY.
SLAM
SO, YOU WANT ME TO QUIT RIGHT AWAY?

HE WANTS ME TO QUIT RIGHT NOW?
SHOVE
CLATTER
GOD DAMMIT !!
MASANORI, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR DEAD MOTHER.
pant pant

CRYSTAL POWER!
THEY SAY THAT CRYSTAL HAS THE POWER TO RESTORE THE BALANCE BETWEEN BODY AND MIND, BUT...
AND MY PENDANT
I REALLY LOVE GETTING THESE
EVER SINCE I GOT THIS PENDANT FROM TSUZUKI, I'VE BEEN SO CONFUSED..
AND A ROSE POTPOURRI SACHET FOR MY POCKET ♡
lick
FIRST, MY BELOVED RASPBERRY LIPSTICK
TEE HEE SWEET!
NOT SINCE THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE WENT OUT TOGETHER
OH KOUICHI, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO SWEET TO CHIERI ☆
CHIERI! WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO? TODAY'S YOUR DAY TO CELEBRATE, SO WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
OVER HERE!

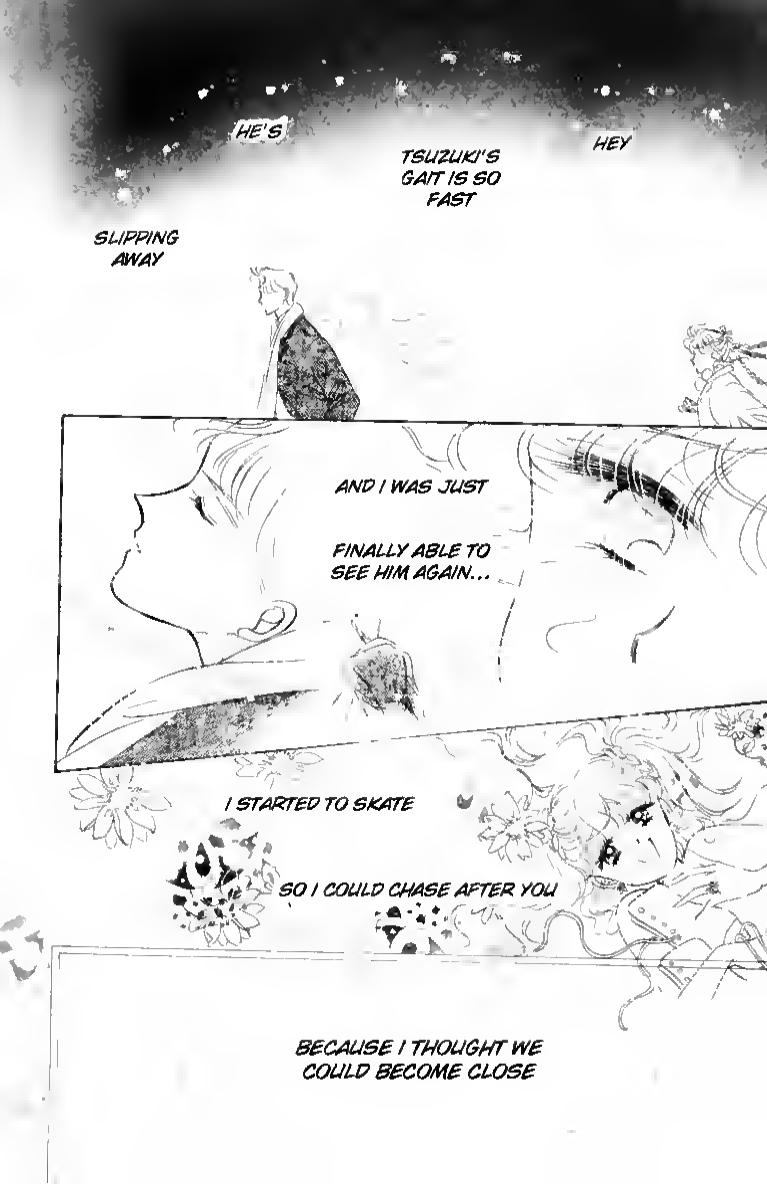
WOO HOO!
MY SKATES!
LET'S GO SKATING! I WANTED ALL OF US TO GO TOGETHER FOR ONCE
HEY CHIERI, YOUR BACKPACK IS SUPER FULL, WHAT'S IN THERE?
HUH?
WOO
fwish
I'LL BE FINE!
CHIERI, ARE YOU GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT TO SKATE WITH YOUR FOOT LIKE THAT?
Swish

smile
I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE.
blush
AH! OKAY THANKS
AT LEAST PUT A SPONGE OVER IT.
gasp
I HAD A FEELING
YOU'D WANT TO BE SKATING
badum
HEY YUNI, DON'T JUST CLING TO THE RAILINGS!
COME ON
I'M SCARED!
I CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE ANYMORE: I JUST WANT TO SKATE WITH TSUZUKI


OHH...
IT FEELS SO GOOD TO BE ON AN OUTDOOR RINK...
ALL THE GLOOMY FEELINGS IN MY HEART
JUST LIFT AWAY
CHIERI REALLY IS EYE-CATCHING ON THE RINK

I WONDER IF THE THREE OF US
WILL BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO CLICKS AS WELL WITH US
AS CHIERI.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S WASTING ALL HER TALENT ON JUST ACTING LIKE A COPY MACHINE...
WE'D JUST BE WASTING OUR TIME.
THERE'S NOBODY LIKE THAT.
FOR TSUZUKI'S SAKE
BUT WE'VE GOT TO SEARCH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE? COME SKATE!

badum
TSUZUKI IS
SPROUTING WINGS OF HIS OWN ...
THOSE THREE ALWAYS SEEM SO DISTANT. LIKE I'M SEEING THEM IN A PAINTING.


HE'S
HEY
TSUZUKI'S GAIT IS SO FAST
SLIPPING AWAY
AND I WAS JUST
FINALLY ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN...
I STARTED TO SKATE
SO I COULD CHASE AFTER YOU
BECAUSE I THOUGHT WE COULD BECOME CLOSE

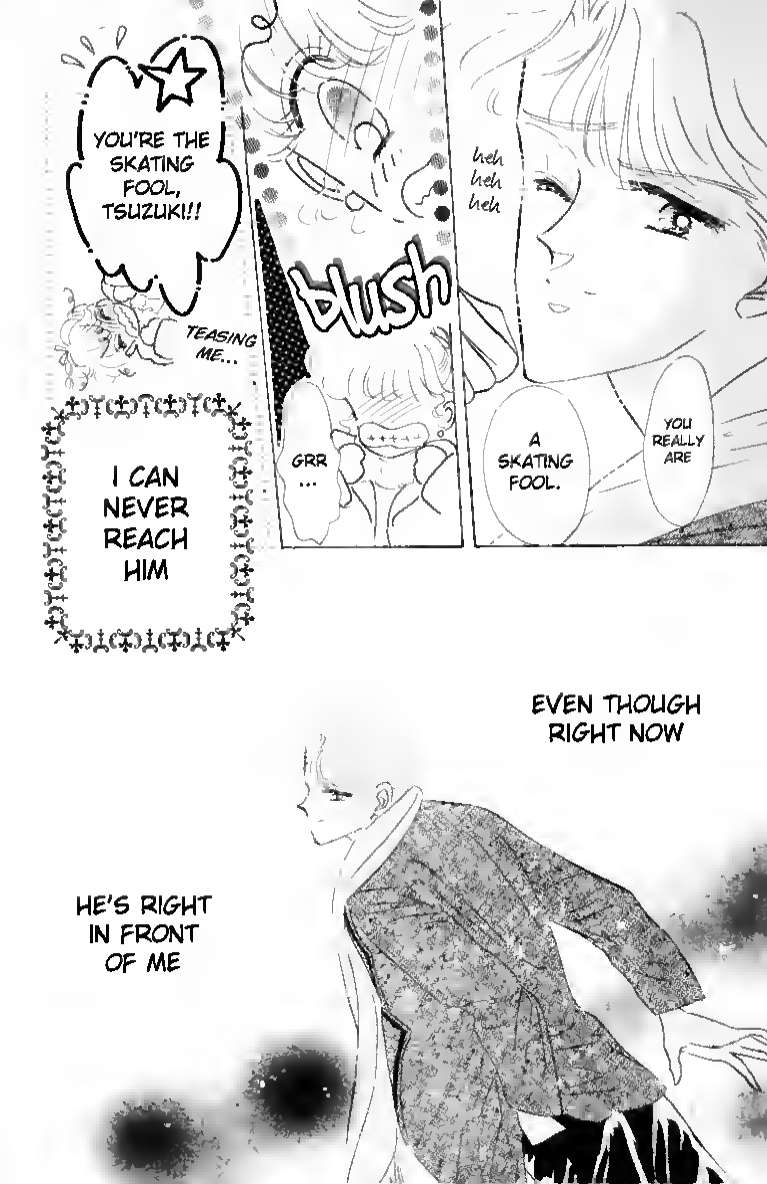
BUT YOU'RE GOING TO FLY AWAY AGAIN
TO SOMEWHERE I CAN'T REACH
TO TAKE THE HAND
OF A GIRL WHO HAS WINGS LIKE YOU
CAN I FOLLOW YOU ANYMORE?
TELL ME, TSUZUKI
gasp
CHIERI !!
OHH, MY EMOTIONS
ARE OVERFLOWING...

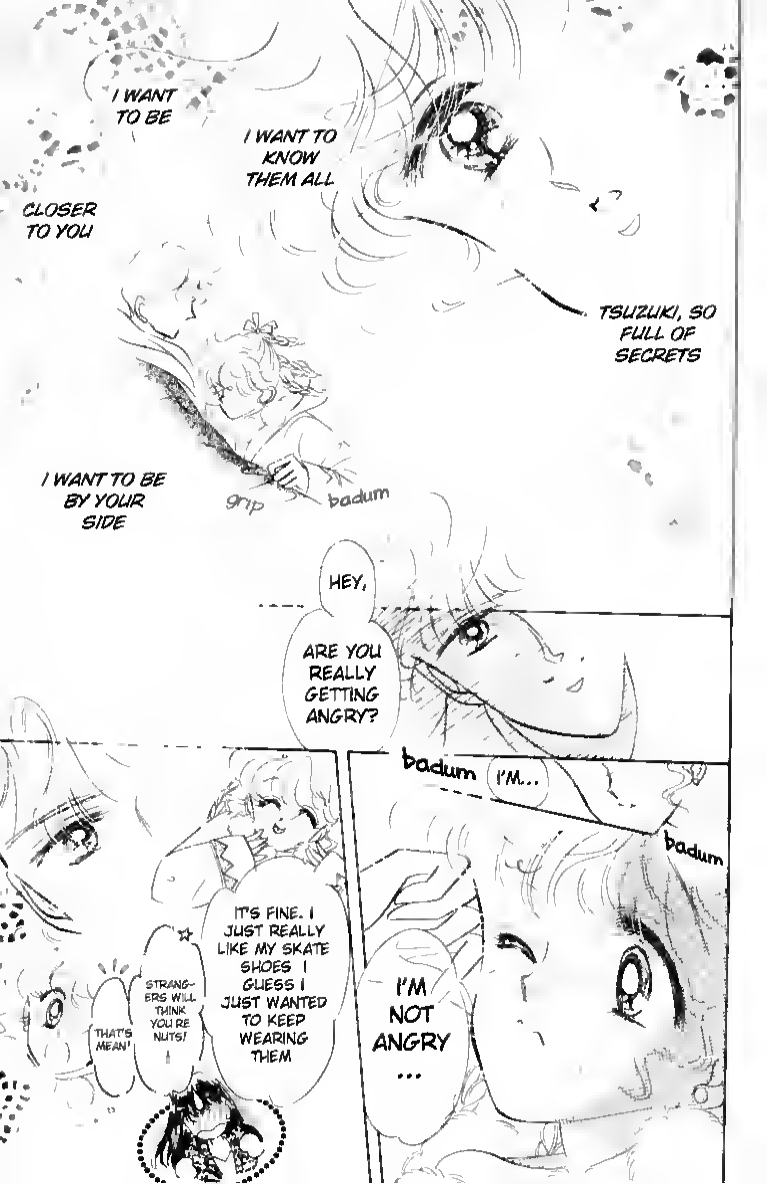
Swooosh
IT'S DANGEROUS TO SKATE WITHOUT PAYING ATTENTION
pant
badum
badum
hug
WHAT'S WRONG?
Collapse
slide
badum
HUH?
I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS SHE?
badum
HAVE YOU ALREADY FOUND A PARTNER FOR TSUZUKI?

IT'S A SECRET?
I PROMISED THAT I WOULDN'T DISCUSS IT WITH YOU, CHIERI.
lift
CHIERI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
wobble
IT'S GETTING WINDY OUT. SHOULD WE GET GOING?
WOW, CHIERI
smile
Sigh

KNIGHTS
HOW DARE YOU!
EXCEPT FOR YOU, HIROSHI, YOU'RE SCRUFFY
NO
I MISSED MY CHANCE
TO BECOME A PRINCESS ...
YOU LOOK LIKE A PRINCESS WITH THREE KNIGHTS BY HER SIDE
HIBIYA CITY ICE SKATING
SHE WENT TO HER LOCKER TO GET HER STUFF ♡
WHERE'S CHIERI?
OKAY, LET'S GO! ♡
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING

YOU LIKE SKATING THAT MUCH?!
DO YOU USUALLY FORGET?!
I FORGOT TO CHANGE MY SHOES
HUH? ACK!
CHIERI!!
snicker
AH HAH
ARE YOU GOING TO WALK AROUND TOWN LIKE THAT?
Y-YOUR SHOES !!
AH HA HA HA
bonk
AH HA HA HA HA
WHAT
D-DON'T LAUGH AT ME ..
YOU'RE MEAN!
AH HA HA HA HA


YOU'RE THE SKATING FOOL, TSUZUKI!!
TEASING ME...
I CAN NEVER REACH HIM
Blush
GRR ...
A SKATING FOOL.
YOU REALLY ARE
heh heh heh
EVEN THOUGH RIGHT NOW
HE'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME


I WANT TO BE
I WANT TO KNOW THEM ALL
CLOSER TO YOU
TSUZUKI, SO FULL OF SECRETS
I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE
grip
badum
HEY,
ARE YOU REALLY GETTING ANGRY?
badum
I'M...
badum
I'M NOT ANGRY ...
IT'S FINE. I JUST REALLY LIKE MY SKATE SHOES I GUESS I JUST WANTED TO KEEP WEARING THEM
STRANGERS WILL THINK YOU'RE NUTS!
THAT'S MEAN!

TSUZUKI
...?
badum
TSUZUKI...
Tsuzuki Manor
A GUEST IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE PARLOR, MASTER TSUZUKI
click
WELCOME HOME

IF HE PICKS ME, I'LL GIVE HIM MY
EVERYTHING
I HAVE A REQUEST, TSUZUKI
MAKE ME YOUR PAIR SKATING PARTNER

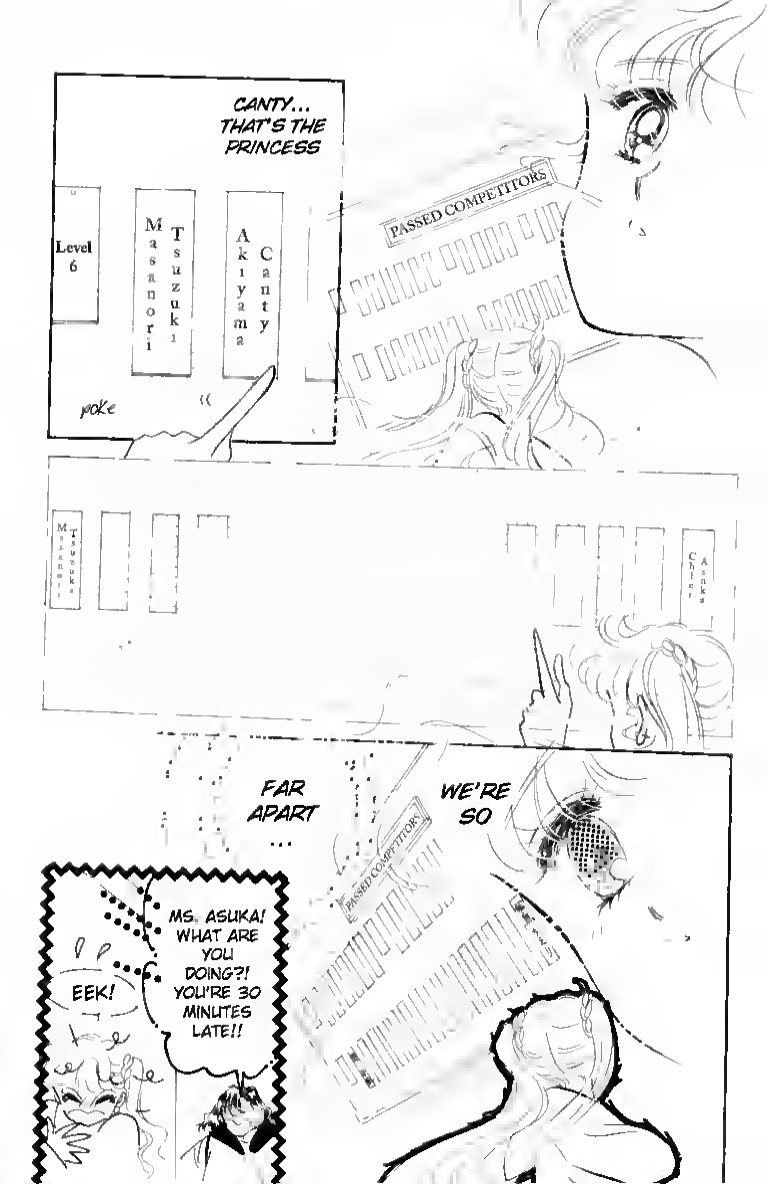
MAKE ME YOUR PARTNER, TSUZUKI

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT WANTING TO PAIR SKATE?
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN OR NOT
I WILL MAKE THAT HAPPEN!
WE ARE BOTH CHAMPIONS, AFTER ALL!
WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER ...

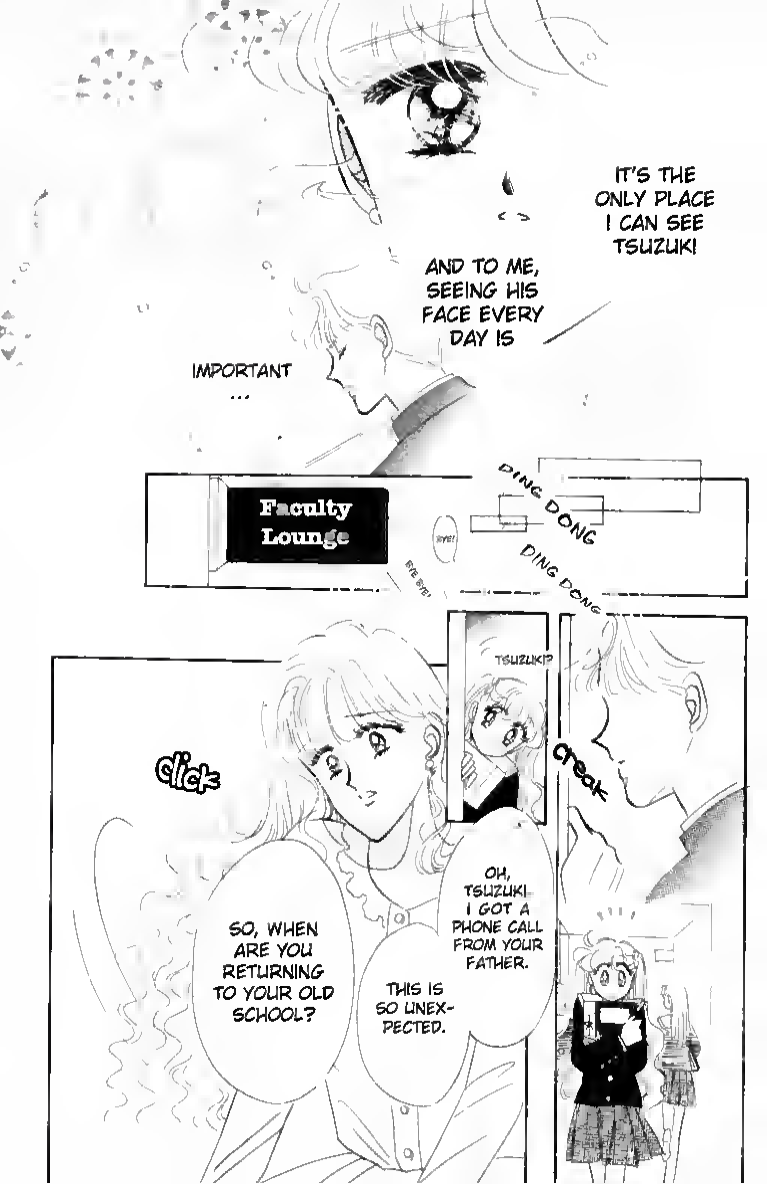
CANTY
WASN'T IT YOUR DREAM TO BECOME THE CHAMPION OF THE GIRL'S SINGLES DIVISION? YOU'RE STILL JUST A JUNIOR.
EVERYONE HAS THEIR HOPES ON YOU
I'M NOT ABOUT TO INTERRUPT YOU DURING THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAINING TIME IN YOUR CAREER
SO YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP LOOKING FOR ANOTHER GIRL!
YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR THAT!
I HAVE THE SELF-CONFIDENCE NEEDED TO CATCH UP TO YOU. IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME THE WAY I AM,
THEN CHANGE ME UNTIL YOU ARE SATISFIED!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ME NOW, TSUZUKI
BUT I'M SERIOUS AND I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER

I WANT TO CHASE THE SAME DREAM AS TSUZUKI...
sniffle
KI
TSUZUKI

AND NOW THAT THE BADGE TESTS ARE OVER,
NOW THERE'S THE TOURNAMENT TO PRACTICE FOR...
OH NO, I OVERSLEPT! IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET UP BY 4 AM SO I CAN GET TO THE RINK BY 5!
Pant
Pant
badum
I CAN ONLY THINK ABOUT TSUZUKI...
BUT I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING LATELY
OH WELL, I STILL HAVE TO KEEP PRACTICING.
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T BE HIS PARTNER ANYMORE ...


CANTY... THAT'S THE PRINCESS
Level 6
Masanori Tsuzuki
Akiyama Canty
yoke
PASSED COMPETITORS
Masanori Tsuzuki
Chie Asuka
FAR APART ...
WE'RE SO
EEK!
MS. ASUKA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU'RE 30 MINUTES LATE!!

I'M PRACTICING,
THERE'S NO POINT ...
EVEN THOUGH
YOU HAVE PRACTICE AT NIGHT TOO, DON'T YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF FROM SCHOOL?
SOME OTHER TIME ...
I'M FINE
I'LL SLEEP MORE LATER ON,
DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF DOING THIS EVERY MORNING ?
clatter
DING DONG
SAFE!
DING DONG
GOOD MORNING GHIERI
BECAUSE
YEAH
stare, stare
N-NO WAY! I HAVE TO COME TO SCHOOL!


IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I CAN SEE TSUZUKI
AND TO ME, SEEING HIS FACE EVERY DAY IS
IMPORTANT ...
Faculty Lounge
DING DONG
DING DONG
bye!
BYE BYE!
TSUZUKI?
creak
click
OH, TSUZUKI. I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM YOUR FATHER.
THIS IS SO UNEXPECTED.
SO, WHEN ARE YOU RETURNING TO YOUR OLD SCHOOL?

HE'S...
badum
LEAVING...
DAMN
MY FATHER ...
badum
tap
TSUZUKI
IS GOING BACK
TO HIS OLD SCHOOL?
MS. ASUKA!

gasp
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? YOU LOST YOUR CONCENTRATION!
WATCH OUT !!
THUD
badum
badum
I FEEL SO
OUT OF IT ...
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! WHAT'S GOING ON? THERE'S ONLY ONE MONTH LEFT UNTIL THE TOURNAMENT AND YOU'RE NOT FOCUSING AT ALL!
bwoosh
GET OFF THE RINK
WIN...
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN LIKE THIS?

SWISH
THE PRINCESS IS PRACTICING FOR A PUBLIC EXHIBITION. TRY TO CLEAR YOUR HEAD AND JUST WATCH.
SHE'S SO PRETTY...
WHY AM I
TRYING TO SKATE?
I'M LOSING TSUZUKI
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

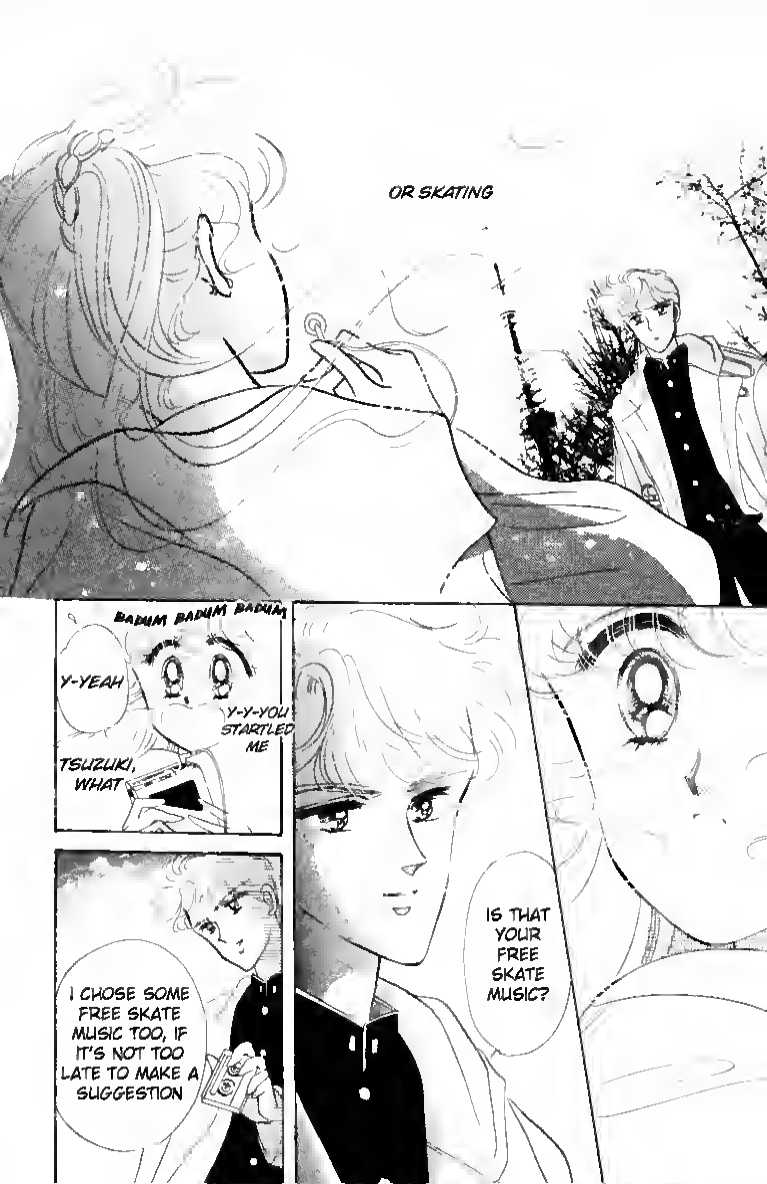
IF I CAN'T CONSIDER BEING IN A PAIR WITH TSUDZUKI ANYMORE
THERE'S NO POINT IN SKATING ANYMORE
THEN
THIS IS WHAT TSUDZUKI'S DAD WOULD HAVE WANTED
I DON'T WANT FOR YOU TO JUST ABANDON CHIERI
I MIGHT NOT WANT YOU TO PAIR UP WITH HER BUT
BUT IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT!
CHIERI IS GOING TO JUST GIVE UP AGAIN

YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU HIROSHI?
ISN'T THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE MOST
TSUZUKI HIMSELF?
JUST TELL US
HOW YOU REALLY FEEL
AND WE'LL GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER YOU DECIDE ...

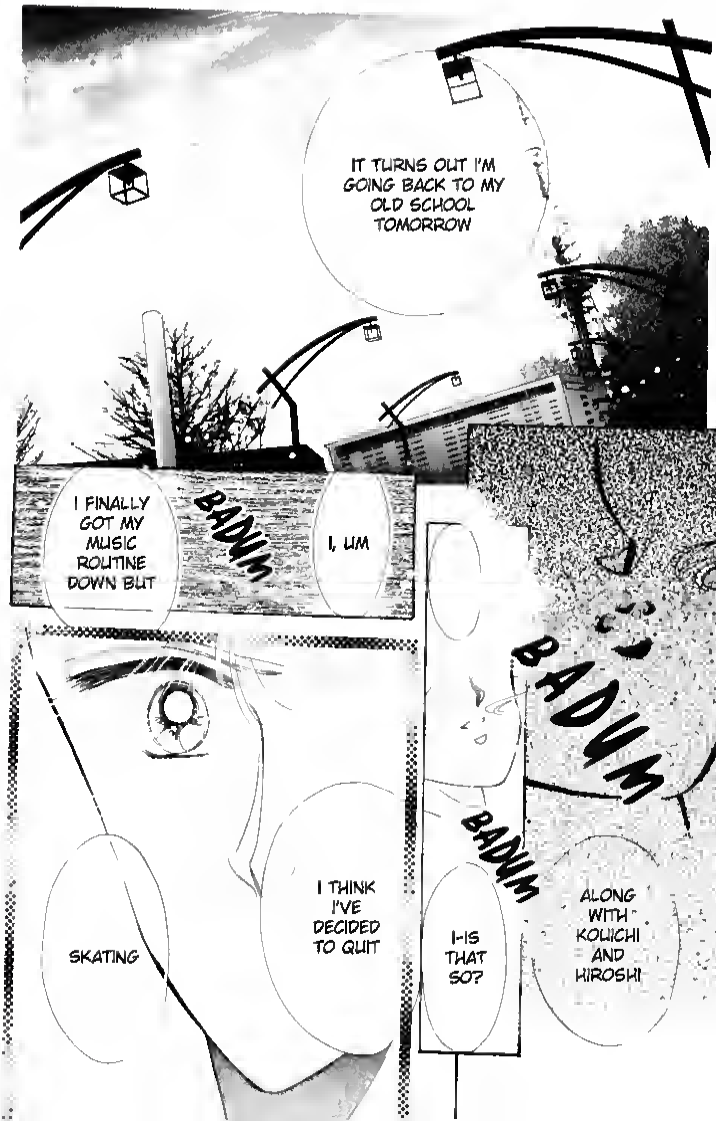
I REALLY WOULD HAVE LIKED
TO PERFORM WITH HER IN THE UPCOMING
TOUR-NAMENT
YEAH
KI
TSUZUKI
SORRY
FOR DRAGGING ALL OF YOU INTO THIS WITH ME

TSUZUKI?! WAIT!
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO BOTHER TO LOOK FOR A PARTNER ANYMORE FOR A WHILE
I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO NOW

DING DONG
DONG
BYE BYE
BYE
Shiba Park
HE'S REALLY LATE
IT'S 4:30
NO
I BET HE JUST GOT HELD UP ...
OHH, I STILL HAVEN'T MASTERED THE TRIPLE TOE LOOP COMBINATION FOR THIS SEGMENT. I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT...
OR
THE
TOURNAMENT, EITHER...

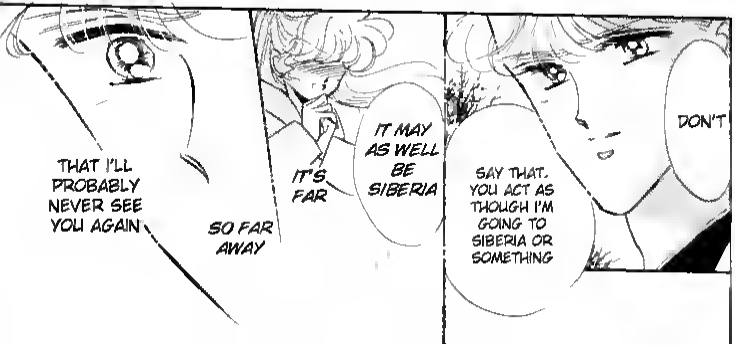

OR SKATING
BADUM BADUM BADUM
Y-YEAH
Y-Y-YOU STARTLED ME
TSUZUKI, WHAT
I CHOSE SOME FREE SKATE MUSIC TOO, IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A SUGGESTION
IS THAT YOUR FREE SKATE MUSIC?

KA-CHINK
CLASSICAL? IT'S PRETTY...
OH
THIS PART
IS WHERE I'D GO FROM THE EAGLE POSE TO A SPIRAL
YEAH
THIS IS WONDERFUL
BADUM
I...


IT TURNS OUT I'M GOING BACK TO MY OLD SCHOOL TOMORROW
I FINALLY GOT MY MUSIC ROUTINE DOWN BUT
BADUM
I, UM
BADUM
BADUM
I-IS THAT SO?
ALONG WITH KOUICHI AND HIROSHI
I THINK I'VE DECIDED TO QUIT
SKATING

SINCE I CAN'T PAIR SKATE WITH YOU ANYMORE, TSUZUKI
DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO STUPID!
WHY?
AND BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING SO FAR AWAY ANYWAY, TSUZUKI
WITHOUT YOU

WHY SHOULD I GO ON SKATING?


THAT I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN
SO FAR AWAY
IT'S FAR
IT MAY AS WELL BE SIBERIA
DON'T
SAY THAT. YOU ACT AS THOUGH I'M GOING TO SIBERIA OR SOMETHING

DON'T GO
DON'T CRY
STAY WITH ME

BADUM
NOW
BEING
BADUM
HELD BY
TSUZUKI
BADUM
GLIDING SLOWLY ACROSS THE RINK

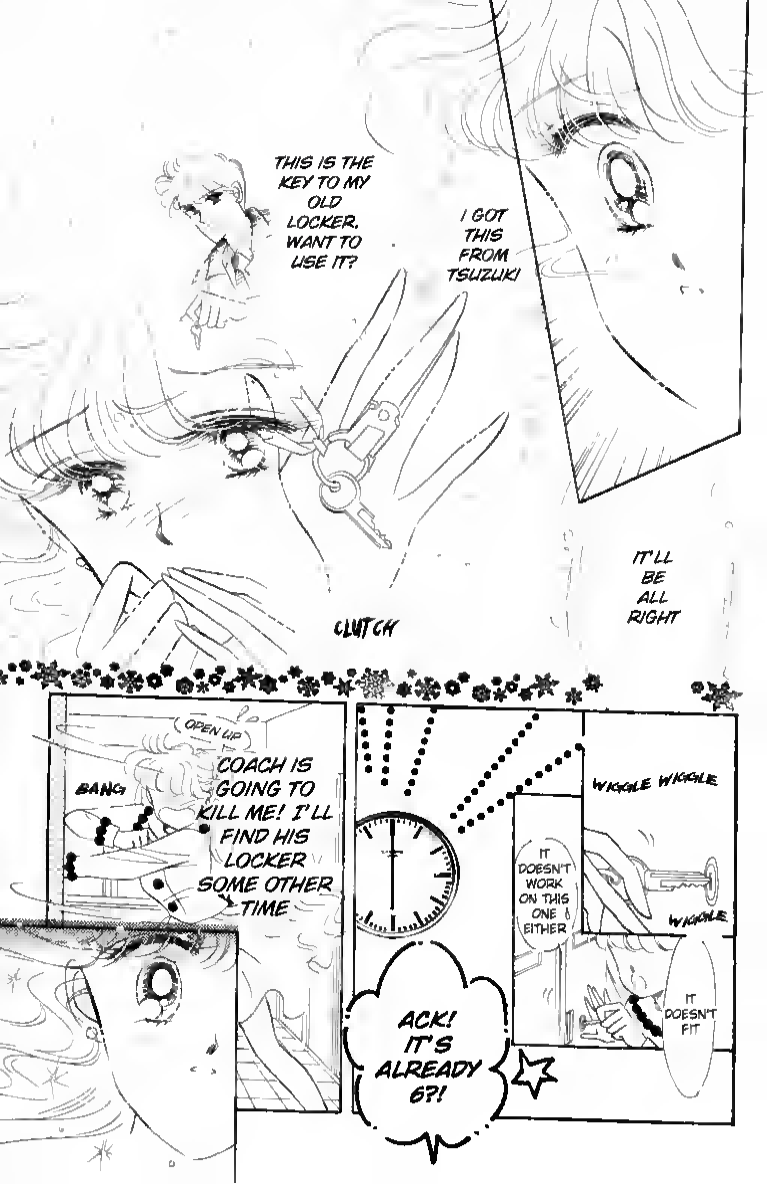
IT WOULD PLEASE ME IF YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU AREN'T GOING TO QUIT
YOU LIKE SKATING, DON'T YOU?
TSUZUKI'S
MAGIC IS FLOODING OVER ME
BADUM BADUM
YOU SHOULD BE
STRONGER THAN THIS

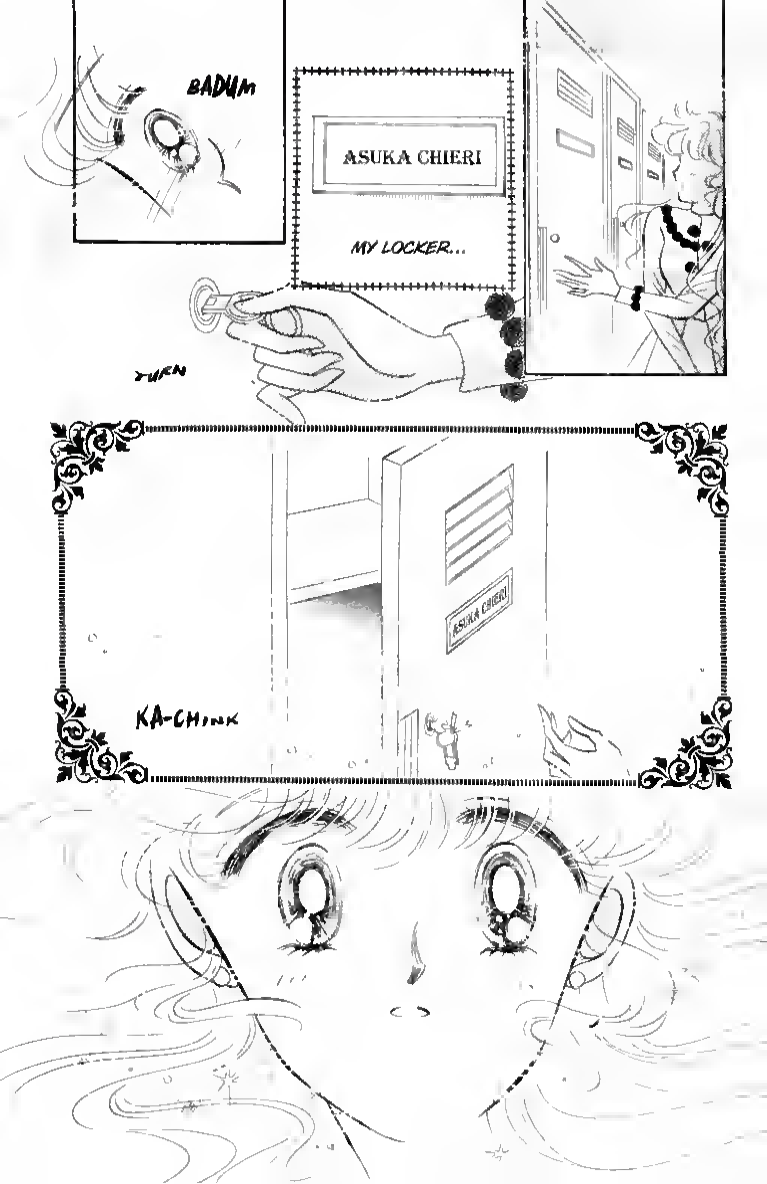
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS
BUT NOW
HOW CAN I, WHEN I'M NOT EVEN GOOD ENOUGH TO PAIR SKATE WITH TSUZUKI ?
A CHALLENGE
IS A BATTLE AGAINST YOURSELF
AND NO ONE CAN DEFEAT YOU
BUT YOURSELF

BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
REALLY?
IF YOU KEEP ON SKATING I AM CERTAIN
THAT WE WILL MEET AGAIN
COACH MORI WILL BE ANGRY IF YOU'RE LATE
GO TO PRACTICE
IT'S 5 O'CLOCK

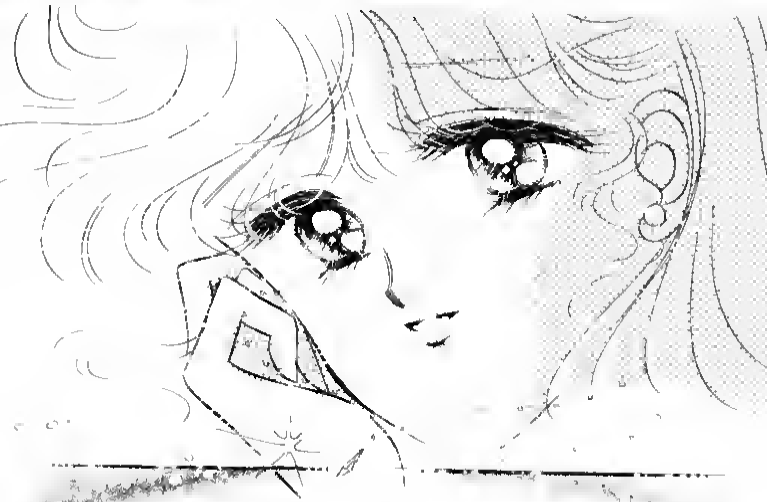
OKAY
I'LL DO IT
BE SURE TO WATCH
I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO DEFEAT THE PRINCESS
I'M NOT GOING TO WASH MY HAIR TODAY
OR MY CLOTHES

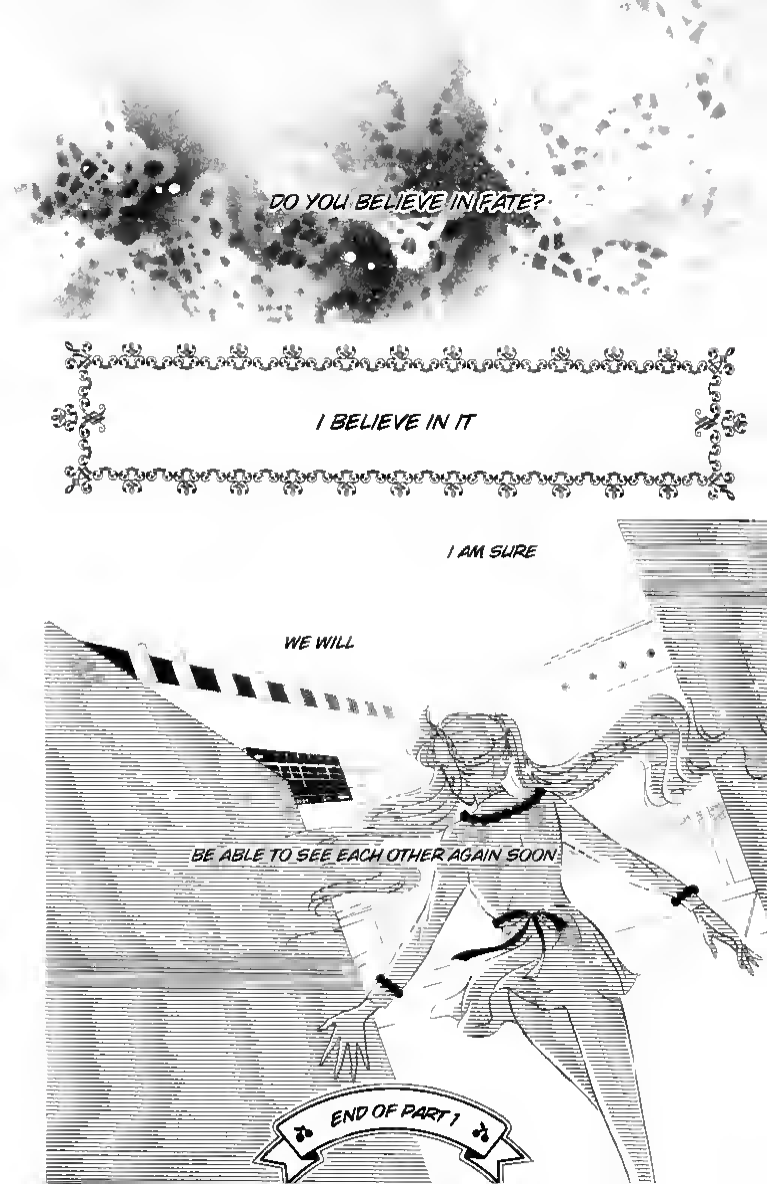
NOT WORK OUT WITH US OR TSUZUKI
THIS MIGHT
YOU'RE RIGHT
CLATTER
CHIERI
IT WILL BE, SO LONG AS THERE'S
I WONDER IF IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT
BECAUSE
TSUZUKI HELD ME SO TIGHTLY IN THEM


THIS IS THE KEY TO MY OLD LOCKER. WANT TO USE IT?
I GOT THIS FROM TSUZUKI
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT
CLUTCH
OPEN UP
BANG
COACH IS GOING TO KILL ME! I'LL FIND HIS LOCKER SOME OTHER TIME
WIGGLE WIGGLE
IT DOESN'T WORK ON THIS ONE EITHER
WIGGLE
IT DOESN'T FIT
ACK! IT'S ALREADY 6?!


BADUM
ASUKA CHIERI
MY LOCKER...
TURN
ASUKA CHIERI
KA-CHINK

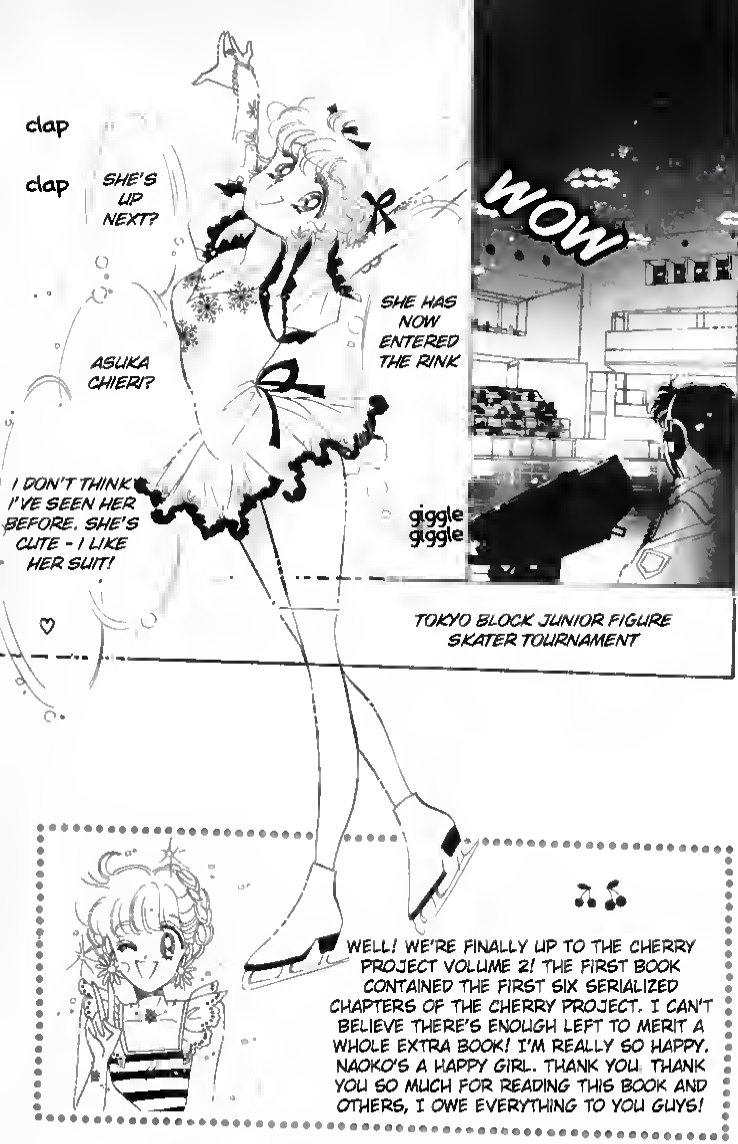
BADUM
I'M TSUZUKI MASANORI
WE HAVE THE SAME BIRTHDAY?!
AND THE SAME COACH, COACH MORI?
AFTER TSUZUKI, SHE'S THE SECOND PERSON TO TAKE ALL SIX LEVELS AT ONCE
THIS IS THE LOCKER TSUZUKI USED?


TSUZUKI


DO YOU BELIEVE IN FATE?
I BELIEVE IN IT
I AM SURE
WE WILL
BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON
END OF PART 1

PRINCESS HOTEL
SKATE CEN
MISS ASUKA CHIERI
NEXT UP IS CONTESTANT NUMBER 3
HERE I GO!
the cherry project
PART 2
WOAH!
WAHH
clap clap clap

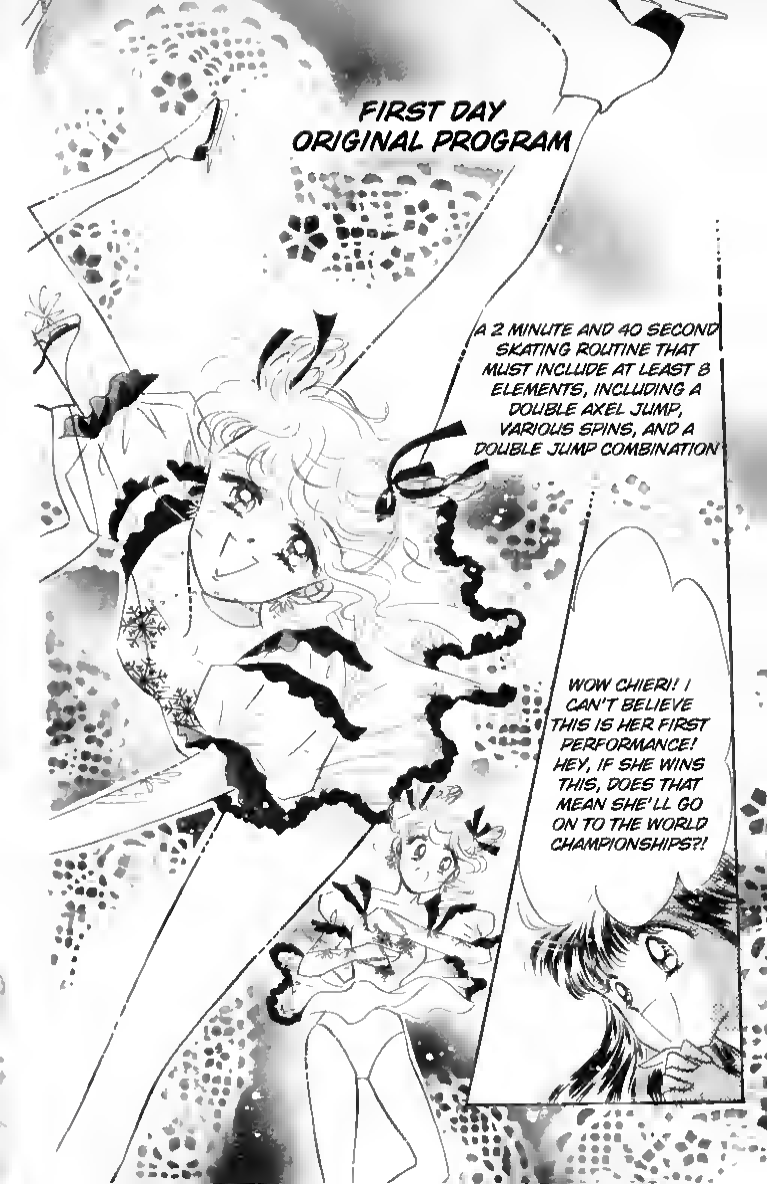
the cherry project
ONLY ONE ANGEL
PART 2



WELL! WE'RE FINALLY UP TO THE CHERRY PROJECT VOLUME 2! THE FIRST BOOK CONTAINED THE FIRST SIX SERIALIZED CHAPTERS OF THE CHERRY PROJECT. I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S ENOUGH LEFT TO MERIT A WHOLE EXTRA BOOK! I'M REALLY SO HAPPY. NAOKO'S A HAPPY GIRL. THANK YOU. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING THIS BOOK AND OTHERS, I OWE EVERYTHING TO YOU GUYS!

scratch
HUH?!

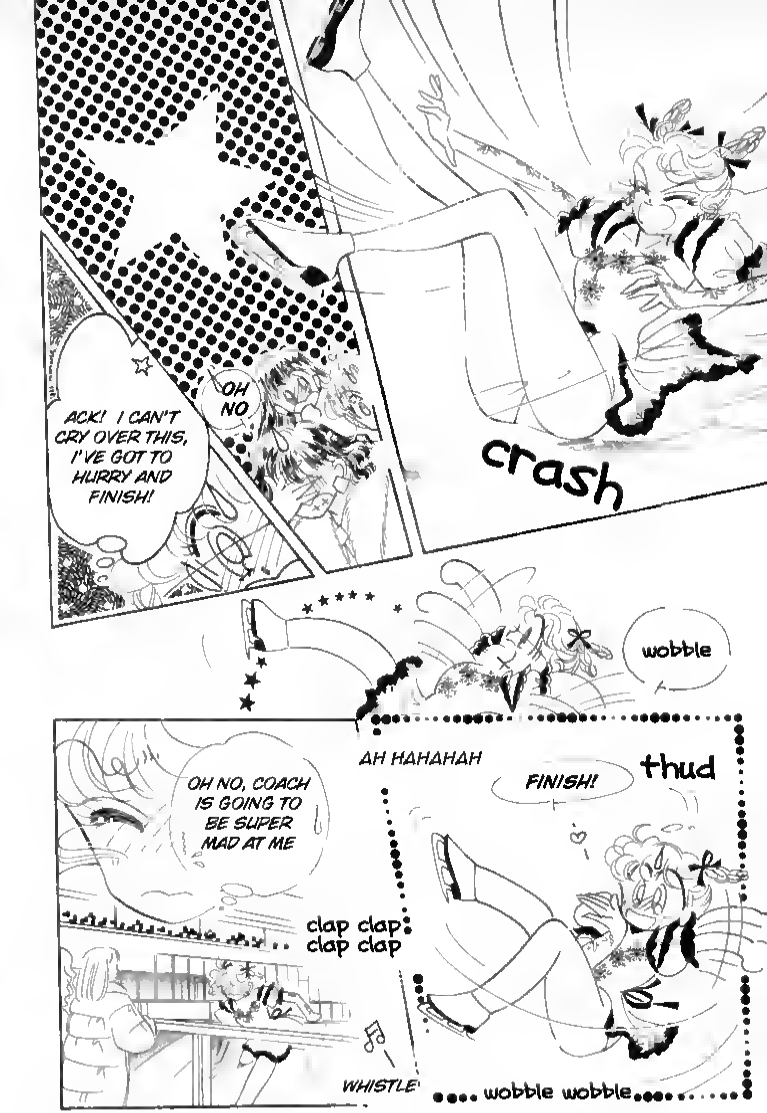
WOOO
WITH NO APPROACHING RUN, CATCHING US ALL OFF GUARD
CHIERI! WOO! THAT'S THE SPIRIT! ♡
A TRIPLE AXEL?!
WOW, THERE'S A SKATER THAT CAN DO THAT?!
chatter


FIRST DAY
ORIGINAL PROGRAM
A 2 MINUTE AND 40 SECOND SKATING ROUTINE THAT MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST 8 ELEMENTS, INCLUDING A DOUBLE AXEL JUMP, VARIOUS SPINS, AND A DOUBLE JUMP COMBINATION
WOW CHIERI! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HER FIRST PERFORMANCE! HEY, IF SHE WINS THIS, DOES THAT MEAN SHE'LL GO ON TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?!

FIRST SHE'LL HAVE TO COMPETE AT THE ALL-JAPAN TOURNAMENT
IF SHE WINS AT THIS BLOCK LEVEL TOURNAMENT, SHE CAN PERFORM IN THE EAST JAPAN TORUMANET.
THEN IF SHE WINS THERE, SHE CAN GO TO THE ALL-JAPAN ONE
TOKYO BLOCK LEVEL
EASTERN JAPAN LEVEL
ALL JAPAN TOURNAMENT
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
WOO
THIS CHAMPIONSHIP IS REALLY JUST A PRIMARY BEFORE A NUMBER OF OTHER SERIOUS COMPETITIONS. BUT LUCKILY THE AGE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN REPEALED SO THAT CHIERI CAN COMPETE IN EVERYTHING. SHE COULD DEFINITELY WIN.

WELL SHE'S A CUTE GIRL BUT
YEAH
MAYBE THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO HER
OH!
SHE SKIPPED THE STEP SEQUENCE!
MAYBE SHE'S NERVOUS BECAUSE IT'S HER FIRST REAL TOURNAMENT
THERE ARE LOTS OF GIRLS AT HER LEVEL
IT FEELS LIKE ALL SHE'S DOING IS REGULAR SKATING
SHE KEEPS IMPROVING EVERY TIME I SEE HER.
AND SOMEHOW SHE HAS THE NERVE TO CHALLENGE GIRLS WHO HAVE BEEN PERFORMING IN TOURNAMENTS FOR YEARS
BUT WOW, THAT REALLY IS COACH MORI, WHO ALSO TAUGHT TSUZUKI
SHE'S LOSING TSUZUKI'S HABITS
SO THIS IS ASUKA CHIERI? I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THIS STYLE OF SKATING BEFORE

HMPH
BUT UNLESS SHE CAN CONTINUALLY MEET THE EXPECTATION SHE'S SET IN HER AUDIENCE, PEOPLE WILL LOSE INTEREST. SHE HAS TO HAVE MORE PERSONALITY.
SIGH
THE SCARY THING IS, WHEN SHE WENT OUT ON THE RINK
SHE NAILED A WHOLE CIRCLE JUMP OUT OF NOWHERE
ALL RIGHT - THE LAST COMBINATION JUMP!
1
2
3
4
TURNS
SHE'S SPINNING TOO MUCH...
SHE'S SO HIGH!


crash
OH NO
ACK! I CAN'T CRY OVER THIS, I'VE GOT TO HURRY AND FINISH!
wobble
AH HAHAHAH
FINISH!
thud
OH NO, COACH IS GOING TO BE SUPER MAD AT ME
clap clap
clap clap
WHISTLE
wobble wobble

YEAH, MY HEART IS POUNDING!
ARE YOU EXCITED?!
BUT
WELL, THAT WAS GOOD FOR A FIRST PERFORMANCE, BUT BE MORE CAREFUL WITH YOUR JUMPS TOMORROW
CHIERI! YOU'RE IN THE TOP LEVEL OF SKATERS NOW!
TEE HEE ♡
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I WENT THROUGH MY USUAL RITUAL
AND BROUGHT MY LUCKY CHARM WITH ME
KOUICHI! HIROSHI! WOW, YOU GUYS CAME?!
YOUR LAST JUMP WAS A DISAPPOINT-MENT
YOU NEED TO PRACTICE MORE
WHAT'S THAT? A PICTURE ?
AH, IT'S NOTHING!

YES, I DID
composer
HIROSHI! I USED YOUR MUSIC FROM THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. DID YOU HEAR IT?
WOO
50 50 50
OH, THEY POSTED THE MARKS!
CHIERI YOU'RE SUCH A SHOW OFF
ISN'T THIS CUTE? YUNI MADE THIS COSTUME FOR ME ♡
HEY ♡
YUP!
EE HEE
IN FIGURE SKATING, THERE ARE 9 JUDGES WHO GIVE MARKS OUT OF 6 POSSIBLE TOTAL POINTS
50 50 50 49
48 49 50
WOW, THERE ARE A LOT OF MARKS UP THERE!
THE FIRST MARKS ON THE BOARD WERE FOR TECHNICAL ELEMENTS.
THE SECOND MARKS REFLECT SCORES FOR PRESENTATION.
PRINCESS HOTEL
SKATE CENT
blip
OH COME ON. NOT EVEN THE WORLD'S TOP SKATERS☆ EVER GET MANY 6.0'S!
☆YIKES - NOT EVEN ONE 6.0!

ACK! THAT'S AWFUL! I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT!
YEAH. THERE'S A BLURB WITH PICTURES AND A SHORT HISTORY IN HERE. CHIERI LOOK, HERE'S YOURS
PICTURES ?!
THAT REMINDS ME, HAS THE PRINCESS GONE ALREADY? THE PROGRAM ONLY HAS THE SKATER'S PICTURES IN THEM, BUT NOT THE ORDER THEY PERFORM IN...
IT'S NOT SURPRISING TO GET THOSE KINDS OF SCORES FOR A FIRST PERFORMANCE. IT'S ALL RIGHT. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR FREE SKATE TOMORROW, CHIERI!
flip
DIDN'T YOU LOOK AT THE PROGRAM?
I SEE. WELL, MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST
HEY
I'D RATHER JUST SKATE AND GO HOME WITHOUT KNOWING ALL THE DETAILS
WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO LOOK, BECAUSE IT'D MAKE ME NERVOUS

KOUICHI, YOUR LAST NAME IS "AKIYAMA" TOO, ISN'T IT?
THAT MEANS
...
AKIYAMA
...
CANTY AKIYAMA
TSUZUKI MASANORI
LEVEL 6
PRINCESS ISN'T HER REAL NAME? IT SAYS HERE HER NAME IS "CANTY AKIYAMA"
CANTY AKIYAMA
1 FIRST RANK FOR HER DIVISION
2 A FAST RISING STAR
BADGES
DAMN
I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING
NO WAY
WELL
smile
WHAT'S THIS? YOU DIDN'T ALREADY TELL THEM?

BUT IT'S TRUE THE PRINCESS IS MY YOUNGER SISTER.
YOUR LITTLE SISTER?!
NO WAY!
thud
I-IS YOUNGER THAN ME?!
T-THEN THE PRINCESS
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS?
THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS
I'D RATHER JUST IMAGINE DOING IT INSTEAD.
WELL, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT I'M NOT REALLY CUT OUT FOR SKATING
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T TELL US, JEAZ! I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT FIGURE SKATING, KOUICHI! YOU'VE BEEN IN THE RINK TOO!
blush blush blush
WANTS BLONDE HAIR TOO
NO WAY. I GUESS IT'S HER BLONDE HAIR THAT MAKES HER LOOK MORE GROWN UP THAN SHE REALLY IS

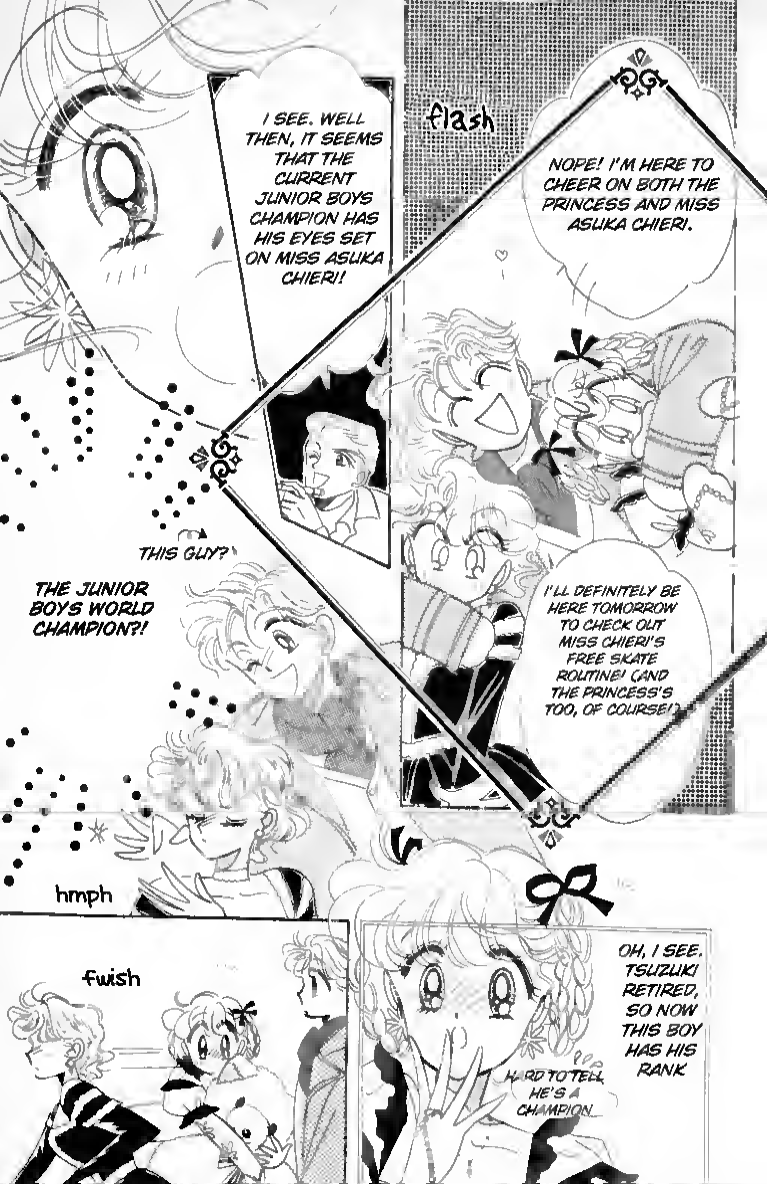
WHENEVER THE SUBJECT OF TSUZUKI COMES UP, THOSE TWO BOTH GO SILENT
TSUZUKI
badum
THAT'S WHY I SUPPORT TSUZUKI INSTEAD
ACK
IDIOT
THAT ALL THREE OF THEM WOULD BE HERE. THAT TSUZUKI WOULD BE HERE TOO.
BUT I THOUGHT TODAY
BUT SINCE THEN
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM TSUZUKI AT ALL
badum
EVEN AFTER KOUCHI AND HIROSHI CHANGED SCHOOLS, THEY STILL CAME TO SEE ME AT THE RINK EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE

BUT I GUESS NOT
I THOUGHT HE WOULD COME TO SEE ME TODAY
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON
THERE GOES ANOTHER ☆ONE
crash
YEAH
EVERYONE'S FALLING DOWN TODAY HUH
I FEEL LIKE HE'S HERE
SOMEWHERE IN THE STADIUM
SIGH
WHERE'S
TSUZUKI ?
YEAH, AT THIS RATE, MS. ASUKA COULD RANK 10TH, AND STILL MAKE IT TO THE EAST JAPAN TOURNAMENT
THE GOAL IS WINNING AT THE ALL-JAPAN LEAGUE

badum
WAS IT SOMEONE ELSE I SAW? I GUESS...BUT HE SHOULD BE HERE...
badum
plunk
HE'S GONE
TSUZUKI?!
push
Hello♡
bwoosh
Miss Cherry?

peek
YOU KNOW, LEOS AND ARIES ARE COMPATIBLE TOGETHER!
I'M AN ARIES
CHIERI, YOU'RE A LEO, RIGHT?
OH, YOUR COSTUME IS SO CUTE! ♡
I'M YOUR NUMBER ONE FAN, MISS CHIERI! AND THIS GUY IS YOUR NUMBER TWO FAN.
THIS IS FOR YOU. HIS NAME IS CHERRY TOO.
TEE AHH, NO HEE, WAY! THANKS!
WHAT?!
A FAN OF MINE?!
NO WAY! ♡

SKATE CENTI
flash
FLASH
OHH KIKUCHI! ARE YOU GIVING THAT GIRL A STUFFED BEAR?! NO FAIR!!
WHAT? THE?
blush
WHERE'S HER COACH TODAY?
PRINCESS?!
I HEARD HER PROGRAM CONTENT CHANGED LAST MINUTE
YEAH
flash
flash
ARE YOU HERE TO CHEER ON THE PRINCESS?
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE JUST TO WATCH THE TOKYO BLOCK TOURNAMENT?
KIKUCHI!
HUH? OH HEY!
LUCKY! HEY, TAKE OUR PICTURE!!
THAT'S KIKUCHI WATARU!!


I SEE. WELL THEN, IT SEEMS THAT THE CURRENT JUNIOR BOYS CHAMPION HAS HIS EYES SET ON MISS ASUKA CHIERI!
flash
NOPE! I'M HERE TO CHEER ON BOTH THE PRINCESS AND MISS ASUKA CHIERI.
THIS GUY?
THE JUNIOR BOYS WORLD CHAMPION?!
I'LL DEFINITELY BE HERE TOMORROW TO CHECK OUT MISS CHIERI'S FREE SKATE ROUTINE! (AND THE PRINCESS'S TOO, OF COURSE!)
hmph
fwish
OH, I SEE. TSUZUKI RETIRED, SO NOW THIS BOY HAS HIS RANK
HARD TO TELL HE'S A CHAMPION

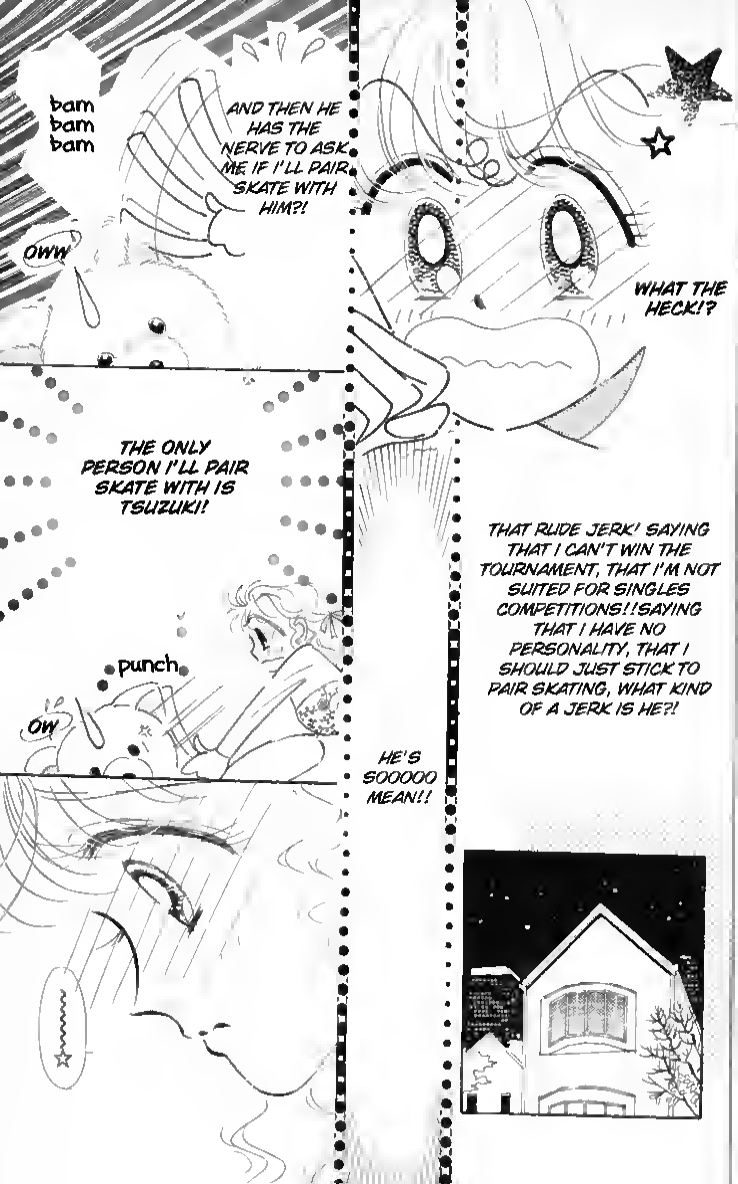
ENTRANT NUMBER 19
waahh
MISS CANTY AKIYAMA
OF THE TAKANAWA WING SKATING CLUB
IT'S THE PRINCESS'S TURN!
badum
HUH? TODAY THE PRINCESS'S COACH DIDN'T SHOW UP.
WELL THEN. LET'S WATCH TOGETHER
WHO, ME?
HERE, COME CLOSER
badum
woo hoo!
GRAB
OH, I DON'T WANT TO WATCH. IT'LL JUST MAKE ME NERVOUS!

ohhh
SHE'S LIKE A FLUTTERING BUTTERFLY
SHE'S SO PRETTY AND ELEGANT. I THOUGHT THAT WHEN I FIRST SAW HER, TOO
badum badum badum

DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERYONE CALLS HER "PRINCESS"?
WHEN SHE TURNED 13,
SHE ALREADY SEEMED SO WOMANLY AND GROWN UP
HER POWER OF EXPRESSION WAS AMAZING
NEXT YEAR SHE CAN COMPETE IN THE SENIOR DIVISION
MAYBE THEN PEOPLE WILL CALL HER "QUEEN"
HEY
I HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS HERSELF
IS THAT TRUE?
woo!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT THE PRINCESS, YOU KNOW

CHIERI, YOU AREN'T SUITED FOR SINGLES COMPETITIONS
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PERSONALITY
DO PAIR SKATING WITH ME INSTEAD?
SO WHY DON'T YOU

SLAP
wobble
HE WAS ASKING FOR IT
NO WAY! NEVER!!
59 59 59 58 59
HUH?
HEY, WHERE'S CHIERI?
WOW! THE PRINCESS'S SCORES ARE REALLY HIGH!
woo!

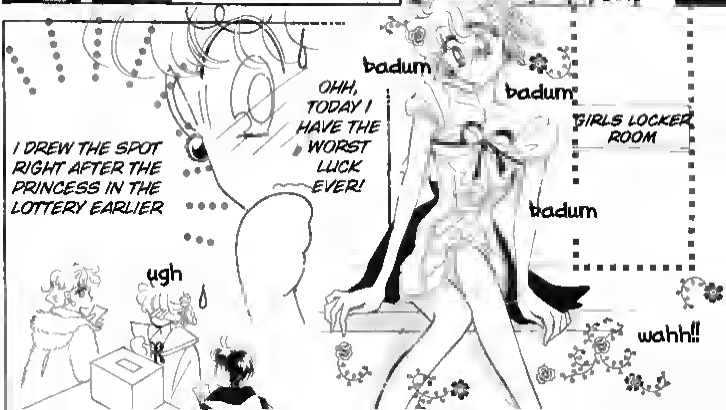

bam
bam
bam
AND THEN HE HAS THE NERVE TO ASK ME IF I'LL PAIR SKATE WITH HIM?!
OWW
WHAT THE HECK!?
THE ONLY PERSON I'LL PAIR SKATE WITH IS TSUZUKI!
punch
OW
HE'S SOOOOO MEAN!!
THAT RUDE JERK! SAYING THAT I CAN'T WIN THE TOURNAMENT, THAT I'M NOT SUITED FOR SINGLES COMPETITIONS!! SAYING THAT I HAVE NO PERSONALITY, THAT I SHOULD JUST STICK TO PAIR SKATING, WHAT KIND OF A JERK IS HE?!

AH, THE FREE SKATE ROUTINE MUSIC TSUZUKI CHOSE...
I'M SUCH A FOOL, ALL I EVER THINK ABOUT IS TSUZUKI
plop
"EMPEROR"
"THIS IS BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH PIANO CONCERTO"
THIS FAR AFTER MEETING TSUZUKI
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO COME
"EMPEROR"
WOW, THAT SOUNDS REALLY HARD, BUT I'LL TRY IT!

PAIR SKATING ALONGSIDE TSUZUKI HAS TURNED INTO A DREAM AGAIN BUT
SINGLES...
badum
SINCE TSUZUKI TOLD ME NOT TO QUIT
I'VE DECIDED TO KEEP DOING MY BEST
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE ON THE PRINCESS?
CHIERI, YOU'RE NOT REALLY SUITED FOR SINGLES
THAT'S RIGHT
MY TARGET IS THE PRINCESS
AND I WON'T GIVE UP

TSUZUKI, I'M GOING TO KEEP TRYING

BECAUSE TSUZUKI...I MISS YOU...



PROFESSOR TAKEUCHI JUST LOVES DOING RESEARCH TO PROPERLY RESEARCH THE INFORMATION USED TO WRITE ABOUT CHIERI, I WENT TO A BUNCH OF ICE SKATING RINKS

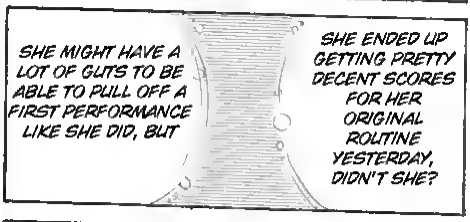
I WENT TO THE SHINAGAWA PRINCE HOTEL ICE RINK. IT'S CLOSE-BY AND REALLY AMAZING. (YOU CAN EVEN FIND MY NAME WRITTEN ON THE RINK-SIDE!)

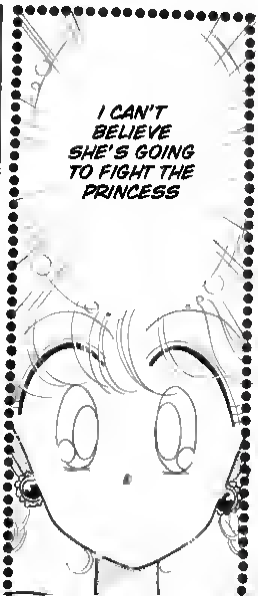
TO BE HONEST, IN JUNIOR HIGH I USED TO SOMETIMES PLAY HOOKEY WITH MY FRIENDS TO GO SKATING (EVEN IN KOFU! I KNOW RIGHT? OH YAYOI, I HOPE YOU REMEMBER!) WE USED TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN, WE EVEN WENT SKATING DURING MIDSUMMER

THE RINK I GO TO MOST OFTEN IS IN SENDAI, CALLED THE GATSUYAMA SKATE RINK. IT'S EUROPEAN STYLE (?) WITH A GIANT RED WALL AROUND THE RINK. WHILE THERE I WATCHED THE EAST JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT - MY HEART WAS POUNDING. I SAT RINK-SIDE FOR THE WHOLE THING. (I EVEN GOT MS. ITOU NIDORI TO AUTOGRAPH MY EVENT PAMPHLET FOR ME - IT WAS AWESOME!)

AFTER THAT, I LIKE TO GO TO THE NEW YOKOHAMA PRINCE HOTEL ICE RINK! IT'S REALLY COOL! YOU CAN FEEL THE INTENSITY OF THE MATCHES THAT GO ON THERE! I LOVE THE GOLD CHAIRS AND THE POOL THEY HAVE TOO. IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, YOU SHOULD GO! I WENT THERE TO WATCH THE ALL JAPAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS!

I WANT TO GO SKATING THERE AGAIN!


SHE MIGHT HAVE A LOT OF GUTS TO BE ABLE TO PULL OFF A FIRST PERFORMANCE LIKE SHE DID, BUT
SHE ENDED UP GETTING PRETTY DECENT SCORES FOR HER ORIGINAL ROUTINE YESTERDAY, DIDN'T SHE?



huff huff
HOW DO THEY EVEN KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
GASP
YOU'RE GOING TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS, RIGHT?
UGH, THOSE JERKS!!
SLAM
CHATTER
A RUDE JERK WHO SPREADS RUMORS!
I BET THAT'S IT. WHAT A STUPID JERK!!
CHIERI!
GASP
whisper
LOOK, IT'S HER...
whisper

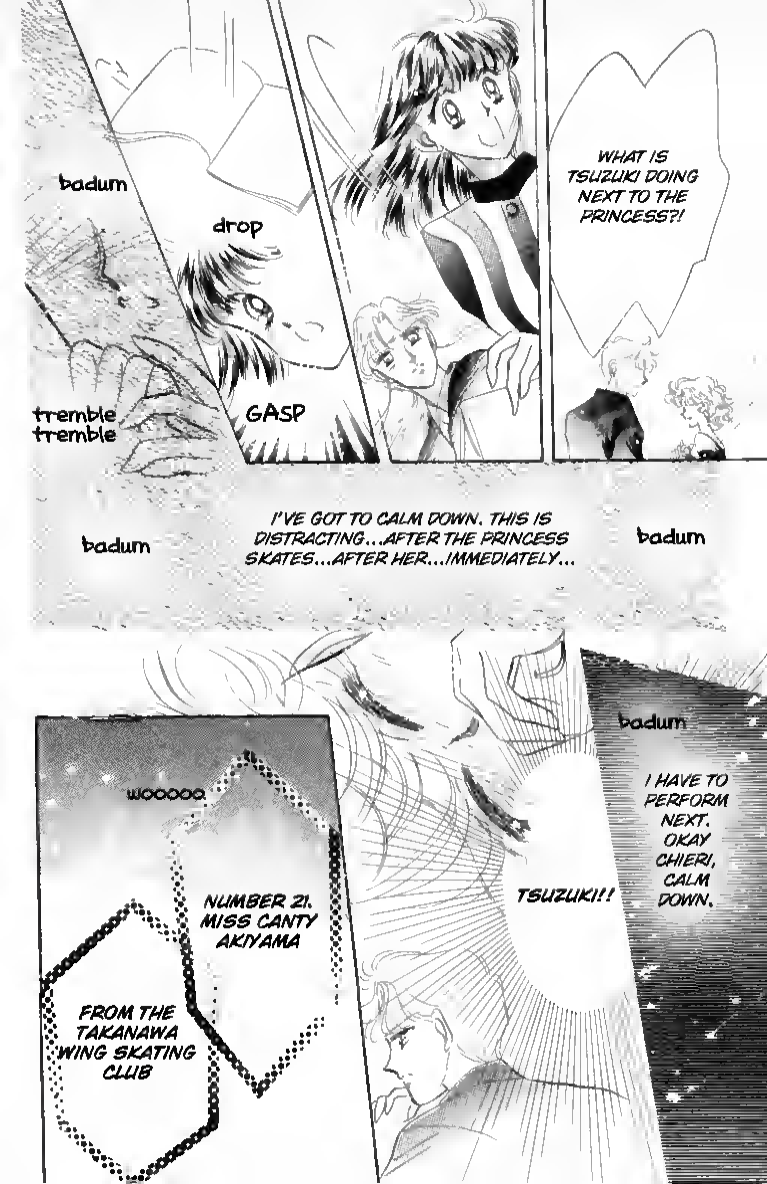
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY
bow
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU PROPERLY
hah
I WONDER IF ANYONE WILL USE CHIERI AS THEIR ROLE MODEL
THAT'S A WISH OF MINE
BUT WOW CHIERI, I'VE GOTTA SAY, YOU'VE GOT A QUICK HAND!
I-I'M SORRY
OH

GASP
W-WHAT THE HELL, HOW DID HE TRICK ME INTO APOLOGIZING TO HIM?!
MY NAME IS KIKUCHI WATARU
I'M FROM KOBE. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'VE
BEEN TALKING WITH THE PRINCESS ABOUT YOU, SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.
chatter
HOWEVER
WHAT I SAID ABOUT YOUR MATCH WITH THE PRINCESS...I MEANT EVERY WORD OF IT
chatter
WHAT?!
IT'S SAD FOR ME TO SAY BUT

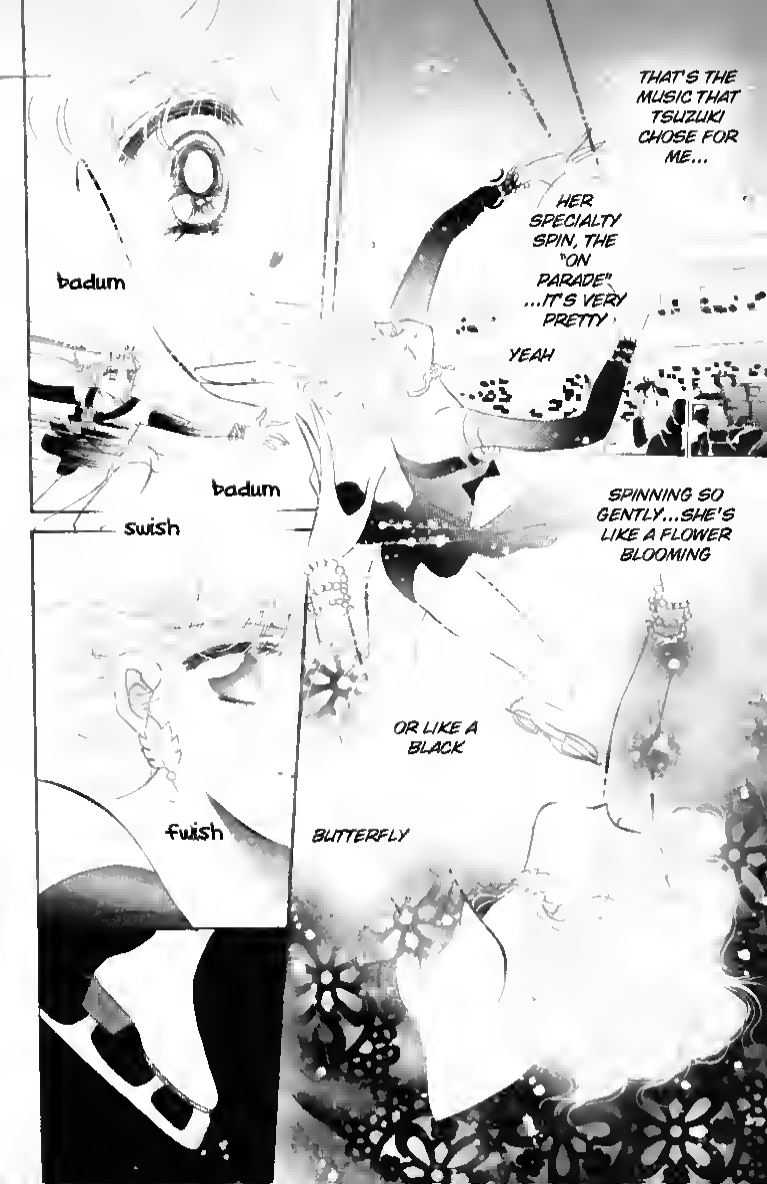
CHIERI, YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HER
I WANTED TO WATCH YOU SKATE AT THE ALL-JAPAN NATIONALS, CHIERI
BUT NOW I THINK THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
WHY
badum
WHY IS HE SAYING ALL THIS TO ME?
GASP
chatter
SKATE CENTER
chatter
grip
IT'S THE PRINCESS!
AND SHE'S HERE TODAY WITH HER NEW COACH!

WOW! IT'S TSUZUKI MASANORI!
THE RUMORS ARE TRUE - THE FORMER JUNIOR BOYS CHAMPION TSUZUKI MASANORI IS HER NEW COACH!!
TAKE A PICTURE!
TSUZUKI?!

TSUZUKI IS THE PRINCESS'S COACH?!
BE CAREFUL WITH TODAY'S COMBINATION JUMPS
THAT'S
TSUZUKI ?!
TSUZUKI?!


badum
drop
GASP
tremble tremble
WHAT IS TSUZUKI DOING NEXT TO THE PRINCESS?!
badum
I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN. THIS IS DISTRACTING...AFTER THE PRINCESS SKATES...AFTER HER...IMMEDIATELY...
badum
badum
I HAVE TO PERFORM NEXT. OKAY CHIERI, CALM DOWN.
TSUZUKI!!
woooooo
NUMBER 21. MISS CANTY AKIYAMA
FROM THE TAKANAWA WING SKATING CLUB

CHIERI, YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE
TODAY SHE WILL BE SKATING TO THE SONG "EMPEROR"
WOOOOO
EMPEROR ?!
THE PRINCESS AND I ARE SKATING TO THE SAME MUSIC?! NO WAY..!!
CANTY AKIYAMA
1
2
3
4
5 EMPEROR
ASUKA CHIERI
1
2
3
4
5 EMPEROR


badum
badum
swish
fuish
THAT'S THE MUSIC THAT TSUZUKI CHOSE FOR ME...
HER SPECIALTY SPIN, THE "ON PARADE" ...IT'S VERY PRETTY
YEAH
SPINNING SO GENTLY...SHE'S LIKE A FLOWER BLOOMING
OR LIKE A BLACK
BUTTERFLY

WOW!

waaaah!!
THIS GIRL IS THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME!
A QUADRUPLE !!
A QUADRUPLE TOE LOOP!!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS THE WORLD'S FIRST GIRLS JUNIOR DIVISION QUADRUPLE WE'VE SEEN!
wooo!
ALL OF THE JUDGES GAVE HER 6.0'S FOR TECHNICAL MERIT!
clap
THESE TWO ARE THE GREATEST COMBINATION IN HISTORY!
EVER SINCE TSUZUKI MASANORI BECAME HER COACH, SHE'S MAKING INCREDIBLE PROGRESS!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOTTEN THE SAME FOR ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION TOO!
clap
A QUADRUPLE TOE LOOP IS A JUMP MADE DIRECTLY FROM THE ICE CONSISTING OF AT LEAST FOUR REVOLUTIONS

dizzy
HER MUSIC IS "EMPEROR"
ALSO OF THE TAKANAWA SKATE CLUB
wooooo!
NEXT UP IS NUMBER 22, MISS ASUKA CHIERI
chatter
chatter
chatter
WHAT
NO WAY...EVEN THOUGH THE PRINCESS WAS THE ONE WHO CHANGED HER MUSIC LAST MINUTE, SHE GOT TO GO FIRST. AND SHE AND CHIERI ARE USING THE SAME MUSIC...
NO WAY. SHE'S USING THE SAME MUSIC AS THE PRINCESS?!
THIS IS BAD. SHE'S PUT CHIERI AT A DISADVANTAGE
CHIERI, CALM DOWN

THE PRINCESS'S SPIN....
LIKE WATCHING A FLOWER BLOOM
OR A BLACK BUTTERFLY
WHAT...THAT SPIN COMBINATION IS...
I HAVE TO SKATE
JUST LIKE
THE PRINCESS
chatter
MS ASUKA?!

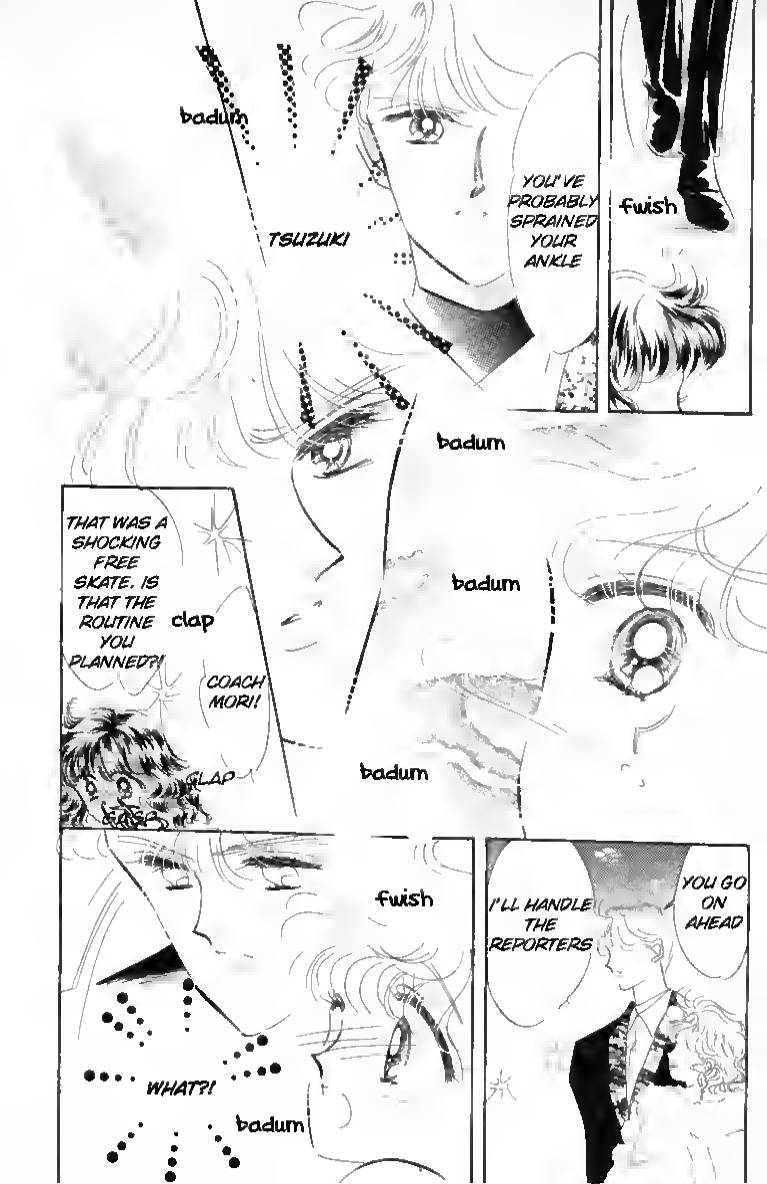
RIGHT NOW I AM
THE PRINCESS
SHE CAN COPY IT AFTER ONLY SEEING IT ONCE?!
IS SHE REALLY GOING TO DO THE SAME PROGRAM AS THE PRINCESS?! NO WAY...
WHAT?! IS THAT THE PRINCESS?!
stare
GASP
silence

NO WAY, NEXT SHE MIGHT...
flick
A QUADRUPLE TOE LOOP!!
GASP
WATCH OUT!!

CRASH
WHAT A POWERFUL JUMP!
INTO THE CAMERA AISLE?!
WHAT WAS I DOING JUST NOW? I'VE BEEN IGNORING MY PROGRAM, WHAT THE HECK...
pant
ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU INJURED?!
BUT IF YOU IGNORE THAT, IT'S LIKE WE GOT TO WATCH THE PRINCESS SKATE TWICE IN A ROW!
clap clap
chatter
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE PLUNGED RIGHT INTO THE CAMERA AISLE!
silence

chatter
WHERE'S SHE FROM? WHO IS HER COACH?
HOW CAN THERE BE SUCH A GOOD SKATER?
chatter
3
4
5
THE HEIGHT OF HER JUMP WAS LIKE A BOY'S!
chatter
LIKE A BOY'S?
chatter
SHE WAS GREAT! HOW COULD SHE COPY THAT SO PERFECTLY?
IF SHE HADN'T CRASHED INTO THE CAMERA AISLE, SHE WOULD HAVE COMPLETED THE QUADRUPLE TOE LOOP TOO
chatter
SHE'S QUITE THE UNEXPECTED FIND!
YUNI...
BUT...I ONLY DESIGNED IT THAT WAY, HAVING THE IMAGE OF AN "EMPEROR" IN MY MIND...
chatter
I FELT LIKE I WAS WATCHING A REPLICA OF THE PRINCESS!
SHE WAS EVEN WEARING THE SAME BLACK SUIT!
chatter

!
MISS ASUKA!
swoon
chatter
THE SCORES?! WHAT ARE HER SCORES?!
wobble
chatter
chatter
MY FOOT...
MY FOOT... HURTS...
MISS ASUKA?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A TOURNAMENT LIKE THIS!
WOAH!
flash
SHE GOT ONE 6.0!
THIS SEASON IS GOING TO BE ROUGH! IS THIS GOING TO BE A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE PRINCESS AND MISS ASUKA?
BUT THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE! WHHHAT?! A 3.1?! THAT'S TOO LOW!
flash


badum
TSUZUKI
YOU'VE PROBABLY SPRAINED YOUR ANKLE
fwish
badum
badum
THAT WAS A SHOCKING FREE SKATE. IS THAT THE ROUTINE YOU PLANNED?!
clap
COACH MORI!
SLAP
badum
fwish
WHAT?!
badum
I'LL HANDLE THE REPORTERS
YOU GO ON AHEAD

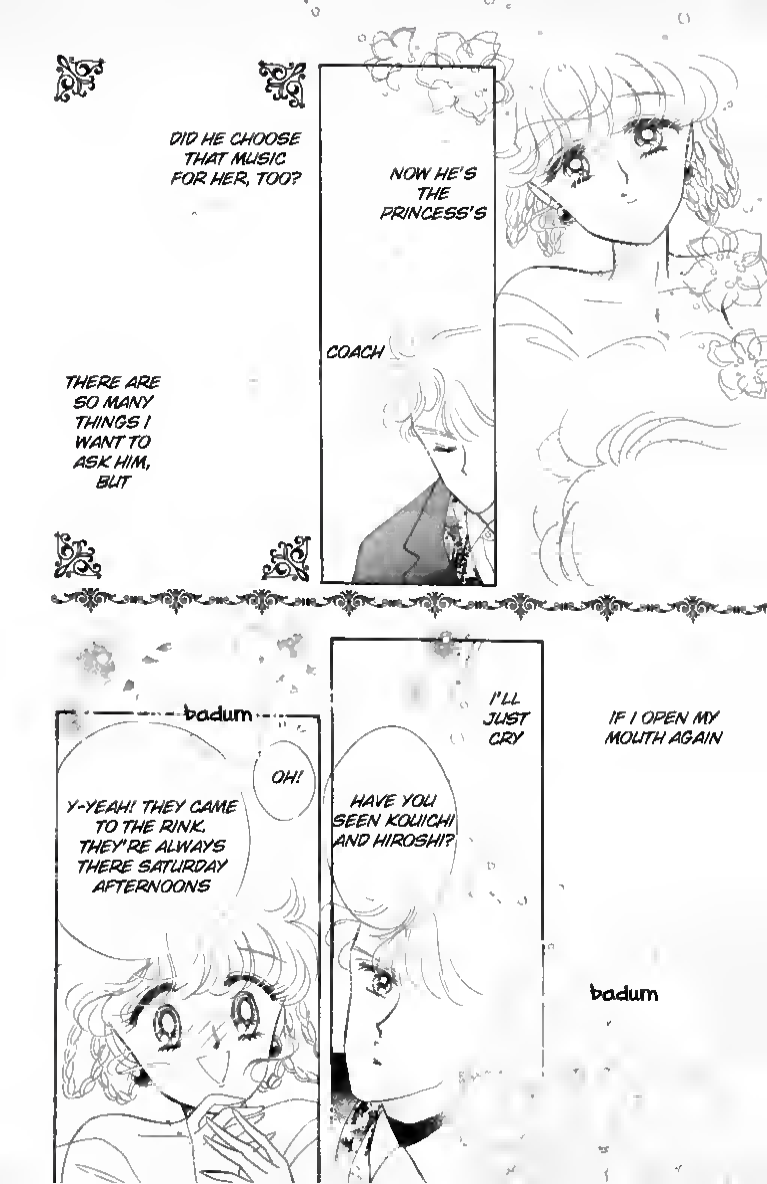
T-TSUZUKI ?!
NO WAY
badum
badum
badum
badum
badum
TSUZUKI'S CHEST
ONE MONTH E. RLIER
badum
chatter
clap
chatter
clap
IT'S SO WARM
TAKANAWA SKATE
SEE YOU, BYE BYE!

LET'S JUST GO ON ABOUT OUR LIVES AS IF THE CONVERSATION NEVER HAPPENED
OUR LITTLE CHAT ABOUT PAIR SKATING TOGETHER
SO I - PROBABLY
MY FATHER HAS ORDERED ME TO STOP SKATING
AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH ?
BUT WHY
stab
TSUZUKI IS QUITTING SKATING?!
WON'T NEED A PARTNER

EVEN IF YOU CAN ONLY DO IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I WANT YOU TO SEE MY SKATING!
B-BE MY COACH!
TSUZUKI
WE'LL LOSE OUR CONNECTION TO EACH OTHER!
SURE
OKAY
AS YOUR COACH...
←医務室
medical room
I'M SURE HER CHOSING THE SAME MUSIC WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE
chatter
chatter
TSUZUKI AND THAT OTHER GIRL DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP ANYMORE
THAT'S RIGHT

badum
AS THE PRINCESS
badum
I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO SKATE THE EXACT SAME WAY
badum
I DON'T
WANT TO GO BACK TO THE RINK
YES
AN ORDINARY PERSON
YOU'RE NOT
EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING IT WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS HER ROUTINE...WAS IT?

EVEN
EVEN IF COACH MORI CAN'T COVER FOR YOU...THE COMMITTEE WILL BACK YOU UP. EVEN IF
IF YOU CRASH INTO STANDS
THAT'S YOUR TALENT
AND YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE, TOO
YOU IMPRESSED THE COMMITTEE A LOT.
I'M NOT HERE
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR ANKLE IS ALL RIGHT.
DID YOU CRASH ON ACCIDENT?
WELL...I STARTED GAZING OFF, GOING INTO THE ZONE, CLEARING MY HEAD, ONLY THINKING ABOUT SKATING...BUT THEN WHEN I HEARD THE MUSIC...SUDDENLY I JUST...
GOING INTO THE ZONE
CLEARING HER HEAD?


DID HE CHOOSE THAT MUSIC FOR HER, TOO?
NOW HE'S THE PRINCESS'
COACH
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO ASK HIM, BUT
badum
Y-YEAH! THEY CAME TO THE RINK. THEY'RE ALWAYS THERE SATURDAY AFTERNOONS
OH!
HAVE YOU SEEN KOUICHI AND HIROSHI?
I'LL JUST CRY
IF I OPEN MY MOUTH AGAIN
badum

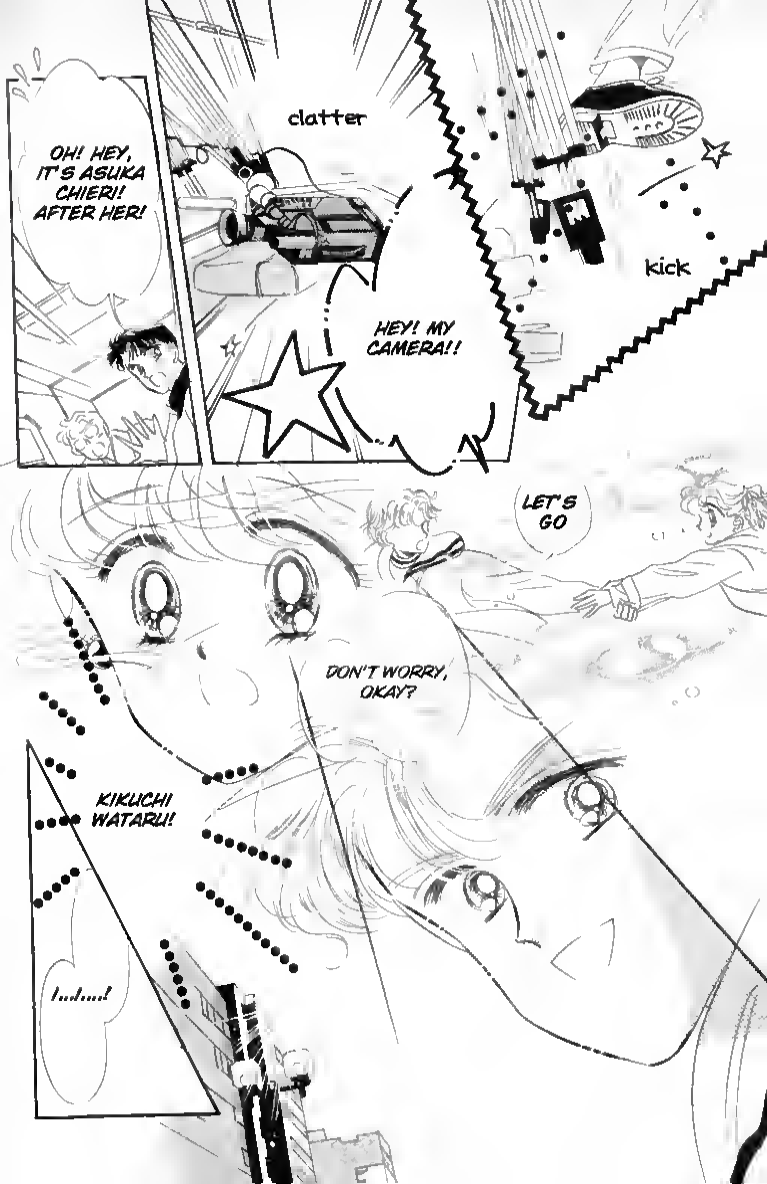
IT'S NOT GOOD
THAT'S GOOD
I SEE
TSUZUKI COMES TOO
UNLESS
badum badum
rub
BESIDES, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME ANYWAYS. YOU'RE THE PRINCESS'S COACH NOW, REMEMBER?
smile
I-I'M NOT GOING TO ☆ CRY!!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE
ABOUT TO CRY
yoink

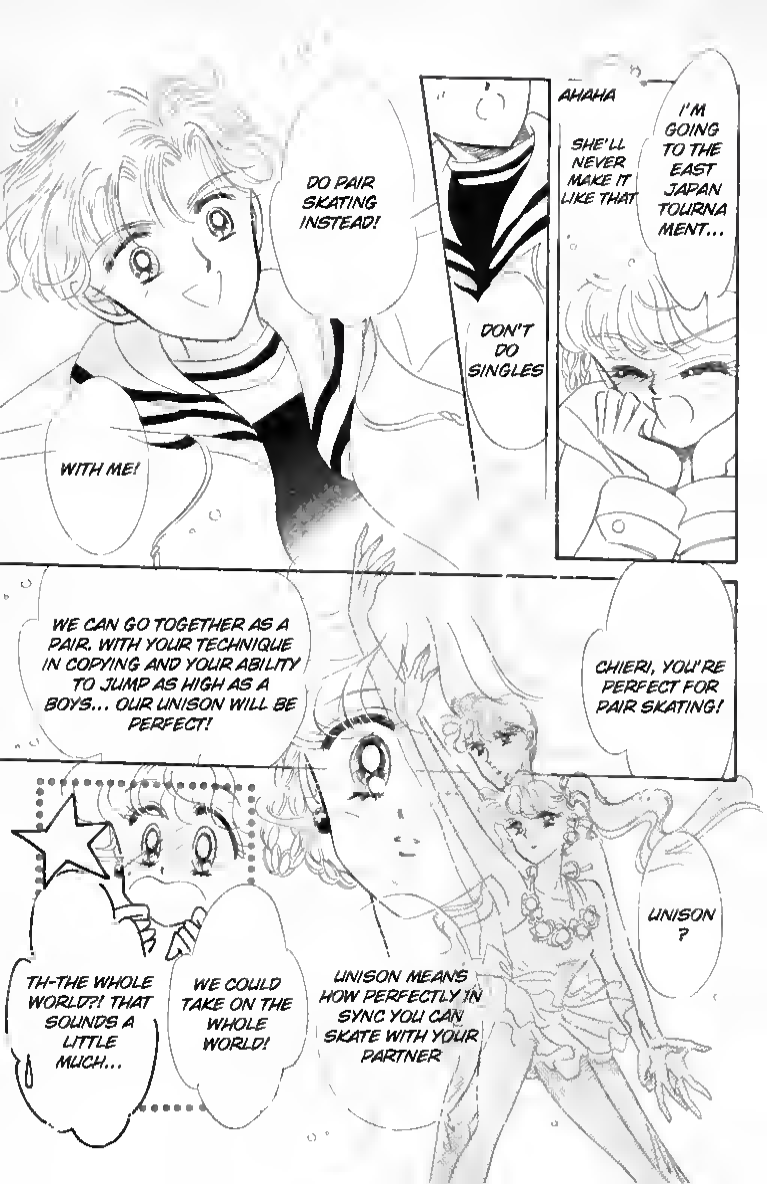
ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU
I AM
click
TSUIZUKI
sigh
I HAVE TO GO

医務室
Medical room
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LIE, HEARING HIM SAY THAT WAS NICE..
badum
ARE YOU REALLY? I WONDER IF HE'S SERIOUS
badum
TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON, OKAY?!
SPILL IT!
YOU HAVEN'T ENDED THE CHERRY PROJECT AFTER ALL, HAVE YOU!
TSUZUKI !!

YOU WERE DISTRACTED TODAY. WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF THINGS
WE HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT
C-COACH, I, UMM....
gasp
click
MISS ASUKA ?
YOU CAN GO TO THE EAST JAPAN TOURNAMENT! WE HAVE TO KEEP TRAINING
BUT, DID YOU SEE YOUR RANKING? YOU GOT 7TH PLACE - LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN!
smile
HEY LOOK, IT'S THAT PRINCESS REPLICA EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING? HER AND HER COACH...
whisper whisper
ロッカー室
医務室
IF THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, CAN I GO HOME NOW?
YES
SEE YOU

I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A REGULAR GIRL!
ASUKA CHIERI IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE ALL JAPAN ATHELETE WHO COMPETED IN THE OLYMPICS!
gasp
WOO-HOO!
WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY?!
THE JUMPS SHE PERFORMED IN HER PROGRAM WERE LIKE A BOY'S....LIKE TSUZUKI MASANORI'S! HER SKATING WAS A LOT LIKE HIS. I DIDN'T KNOW A GIRL COULD PULL THAT KIND OF HEIGHT OFF!
AND DURING HER FREE SKATE ROUTINE
SHE JUST IMITATED THE PRINCESS'S TECHNIQUES
SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT LIKE THAT
AHA HA
ahaha
!
chatter
chatter
fwish


OH! HEY, IT'S ASUKA CHIERI! AFTER HER!
clatter
HEY! MY CAMERA!!
kick
LET'S GO
DON'T WORRY, OKAY?
KIKUCHI WATARU!
!...!....!


I'M GOING TO THE EAST JAPAN TOURNAMENT...
AHAHA
SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT LIKE THAT
DON'T DO SINGLES
DO PAIR SKATING INSTEAD!
WITH ME!
CHIERI, YOU'RE PERFECT FOR PAIR SKATING!
WE CAN GO TOGETHER AS A PAIR. WITH YOUR TECHNIQUE IN COPYING AND YOUR ABILITY TO JUMP AS HIGH AS A BOYS... OUR UNISON WILL BE PERFECT!
UNISON ?
UNISON MEANS HOW PERFECTLY IN SYNC YOU CAN SKATE WITH YOUR PARTNER
WE COULD TAKE ON THE WHOLE WORLD!
TH-THE WHOLE WORLD?! THAT SOUNDS A LITTLE MUCH...

IT'S OUR CHANCE! YOU'RE TOO GOOD OF A SKATER TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE WORLD OF SINGLES SKATING!
RIGHT NOW, THERE IS NO WORLD CHAMPION IN THE PAIR SKATING DIVISION
YOU MEAN TSUZUKI MASANORI? HE'S GOING TO PAIR SKATE?!
HUH, TSUZUKI ?
IS THAT WHY HE WANTED TO TACKLE PAIR SKATING...?
TSUZUKI IS TOO
HE MUST BE COACHING THE PRINCESS TO PREPARE HER TO BECOME HIS NEW PARTNER!
THEN...THAT MEANS...

YOU'RE SAYING THAT CHIERI IS A COPYING MACHINE? NO WAY....
HER FATHER WAS AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE. AND EVENTUALLY THEY WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT SHE AND THE PRINCESS
HAD THE SAME MUSIC
BUT THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WOULD SKATE WAS DETERMINED BY LOTTERY.
BUT YOU KNOW, CHIERI HAS MERIT ON HER OWN. EVEN IF SHE HAD PERFORMED BEFORE THE PRINCESS, THE JUDGES STILL WOULD HAVE LIKED HER.
WE THOUGHT THAT IF WE SET THEM BOTH TO THE SAME MUSIC, CHIERI WOULD RISE TO THE PRINCESS'S LEVEL OF SKATING
WE TOOK A GAMBLE ON THAT MUSICAL PIECE

THE FACT THAT CHIERI PERFORMED AFTER THE PRINCESS ACTUALLY HIGHLIGHTED HER TECHNIQUE MORE THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED. CHIERI'S GOT REALLY GOOD LUCK
YEAH, THEY WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT CHIERI AND THE PRINCESS HAD THE SAME MUSIC
THE COMMITTEE
CAN'T IGNORE A TALENT LIKE HERS. THEY'LL BACK HER
BUT THE POINT OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO MAKE HER APPEALING TO THE JAPANESE SKATING COMMITTEE
YOU'RE SO COOL
TSUZUKI
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND
IF YOU'RE DOING ALL OF THIS TO HELP CHIERI
BUT WHY DID YOU BECOME THE PRINCESS'S COACH?

IF THIS IS REALLY TO HELP CHIERI, THEN THE BEST THING YOU COULD DO FOR HER WOULD BE TO STAY BY HER SIDE
I FIRST CLEARED MY MIND
stab
FROM THE TIME
THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY LEAGUE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
throb
TSUIZUKI AND THE PRINCESS ARE GOING TO PAIR SKATE TOGETHER BUT...THEYDON'T REALLY FIT TOGETHER
THIS IS TOO MUCH

swish
peep
chirp
chirp
sigh
shiver
RINK THIS REFRESHINGLY COOL LAST TIME?
WAS THE
THING DISTANCING ME FROM TSUZUKI
THIS IS ONE MORE
flicker
BUT THE MUSIC
MUST CHANGE
WE'LL KEEP THE CONTENT OF YOUR FREE SKATE ROUTINE
WE HAVE EXACTLY TWO WEEKS UNTIL EAST JAPAN

MISS ASUKA?
click click
THERE'S A PIECE I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT USING
clutch
GO OUT TO THE RINK
THE RINK IS SO HUGE...I CAN'T SEE THAT WELL
shimmer shimmer
WHAT'S WRONG? THE MUSIC IS STARTING
I CAN'T HEAR THE MUSIC!

I CAN'T HEAR HER VOICE...! I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
HUH? WHAT'S THE COACH SAYING?
I CAN'T
I CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS
MISS
MISS ASUKA!
twitch
HEAR THE MUSIC
twitch twich
IS SCARY!
THE RINK
badum badum

COACH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN SHE CAN'T SKATE?!

CHIERI CAN'T SKATE?!

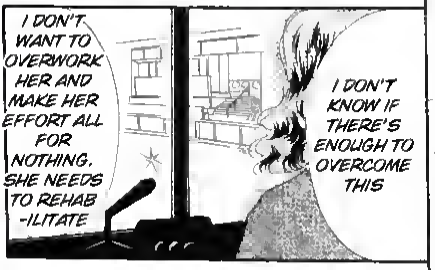
WE'RE ALMOST THROUGH THIS VOLUME OF THE CHERRY PROJECT. I HOPE YOU'LL READ VOLUME 3! LET'S MEET EACH OTHER AGAIN IN BOOK 3. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CONTINUING TO READ MY WORK. I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL!
Naoko Takeuchi

AFTER PLACING IN THE BLOCK TOURNAMENT, SHE SUDDENLY STARTED HAVING THESE ISSUES. B
AND SHE CAN'T MOVE HER LEGS.
SHE'S GONE
DEAF
SOMETHING'S WRONG IN HER MIND
BUT THE DOCTORS SAY THEY CAN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH HER
AND HER FEAR ABOUT THAT BEING TRUE HAS CAUSED HER TO REJECT THE RINK
MISS ASUKA
HAS CONVINCED HERSELF THAT SHE'S NOTHING BUT A COPYING MACHINE.
THE PERSON WHO CHOSE MISS ASUKA'S FREE SKATE MUSIC...
IT WAS MASANOR I, WASN'T IT?

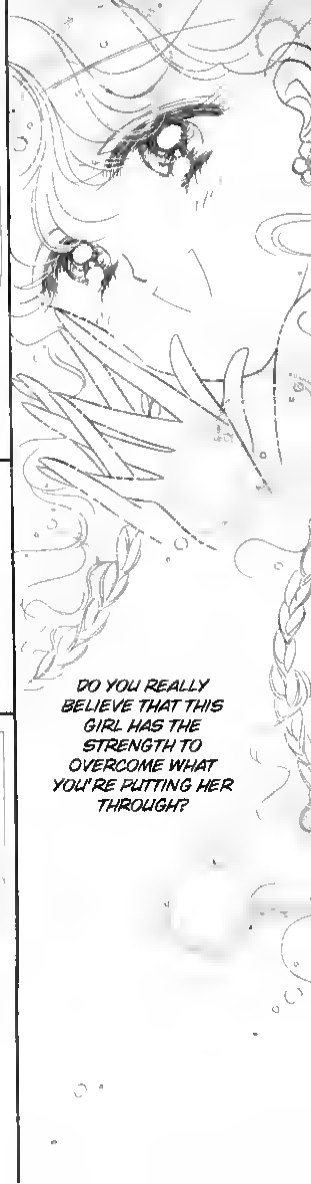
THAT THIS GIRL BECAME A COPYING MACHINE TO RUSH THROUGH THE RANKS
MASANORI KNOWS
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?
IT WAS MASANORI, WASN'T IT?
I DON'T THINK SHE'S GOING TO BREAK JUST YET
IS HE THE REAL REASON MISS ASUKA CAN'T SKATE ANYMORE?
DID HE INTENTION -ALLY PUT HER IN SUCH A DIFFICULT
TO BREAK THIS HABIT OF HERS? TO FIX HER PROBLEMS?
MASANORI

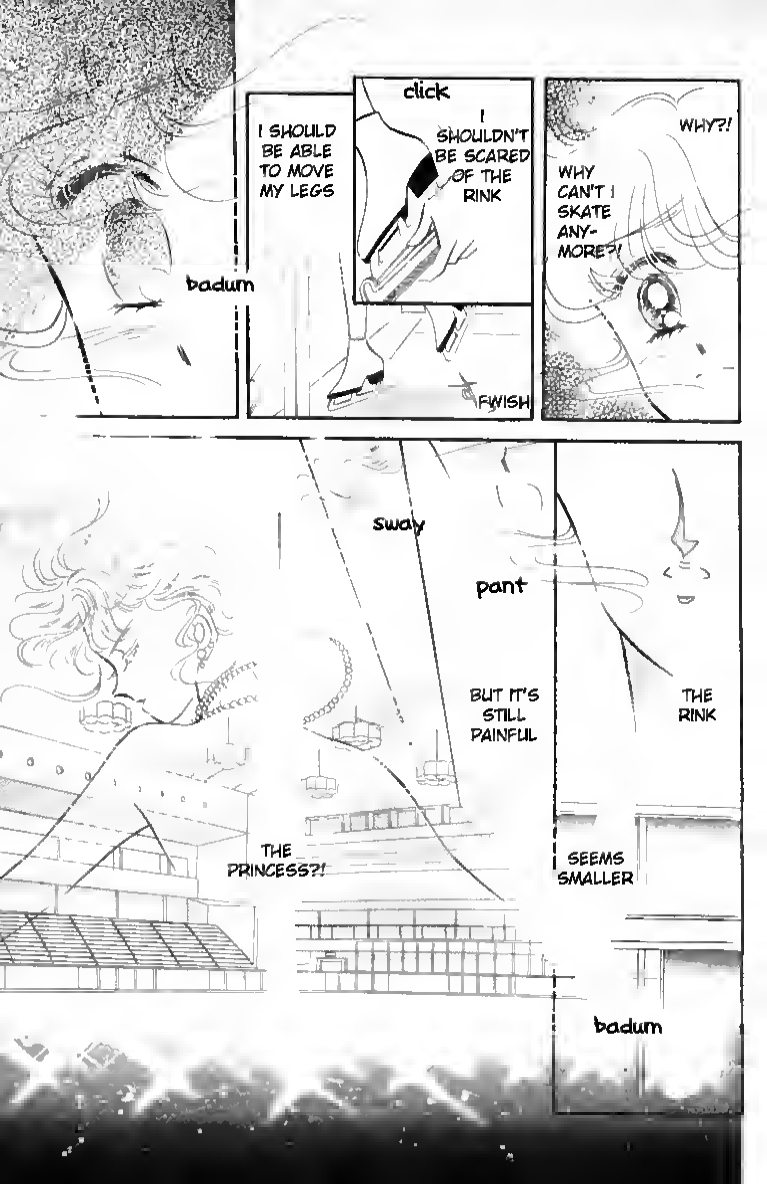
I WANT HER TO ENTER! BUT
COACH!

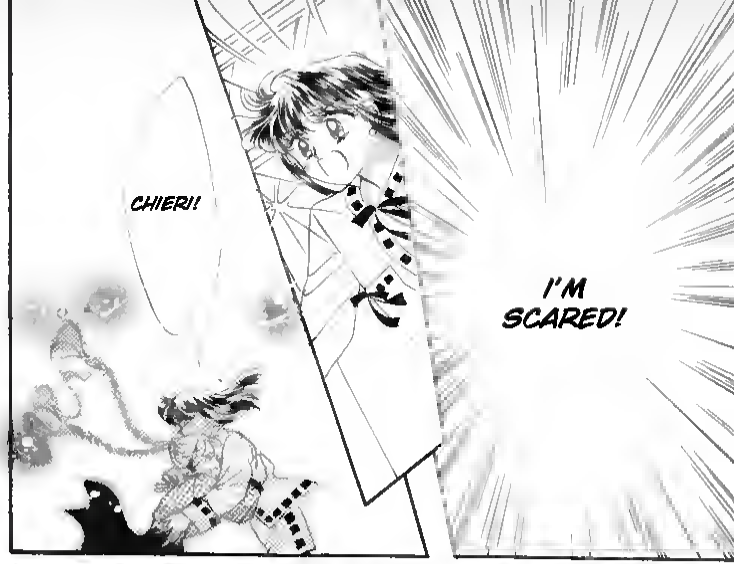
I'M THINKING OF WITHDRAWING HER ENTRY INTO THE ALL JAPAN TOURNAMENT

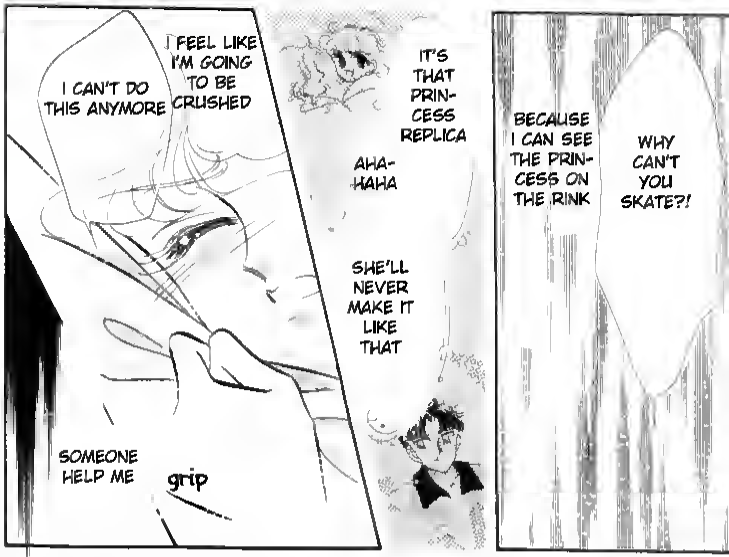

I DON'T WANT TO OVERWORK HER AND MAKE HER EFFORT ALL FOR NOTHING. SHE NEEDS TO REHAB -ILITATE
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THIS

WE SHOULD GIVE HER SOME TIME


DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT THIS GIRL HAS THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME WHAT YOU'RE PUTTING HER THROUGH?


badum
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE MY LEGS
click
I SHOULDN'T BE SCARED OF THE RINK
FWISH
WHY?!
WHY CAN'T I SKATE ANY-MORE?!
sway
pant
BUT IT'S STILL PAINFUL
THE RINK
THE PRINCESS?!
SEEMS SMALLER
badum


CHIERI!
I'M SCARED!


I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO BE CRUSHED
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE
SOMEONE HELP ME
grip
IT'S THAT PRINCESS REPLICA
AHA-HAHA
SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT LIKE THAT
BECAUSE I CAN SEE THE PRINCESS ON THE RINK
WHY CAN'T YOU SKATE?!

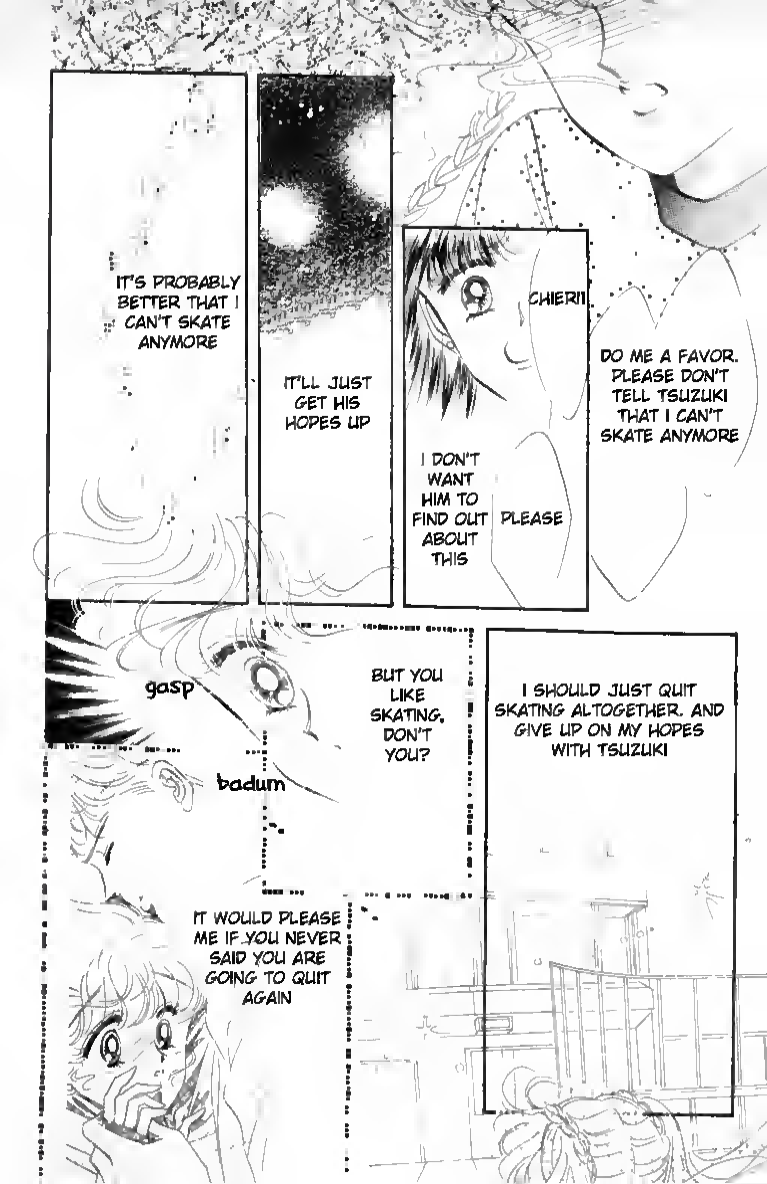
ALL OF US FROM THE CHERRY PROJECT ARE HERE FOR YOU
YOU HAVE ALL OF US TO DRAW STRENGTH FROM. YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH YOURSELF LIKE THIS. JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND DO YOUR BEST. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU
TSUZUKI
CHIERI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TSUZUKI TOO
AND
badum
MISS HARD AND THE COACH ARE THERE TOO, YOU KNOW?
AND WE'LL ALWAYS BE THERE TO BACK YOU UP IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, CHIERI. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
RELY ON US
AND KOUICHI
AND HIROSHI
AND ME

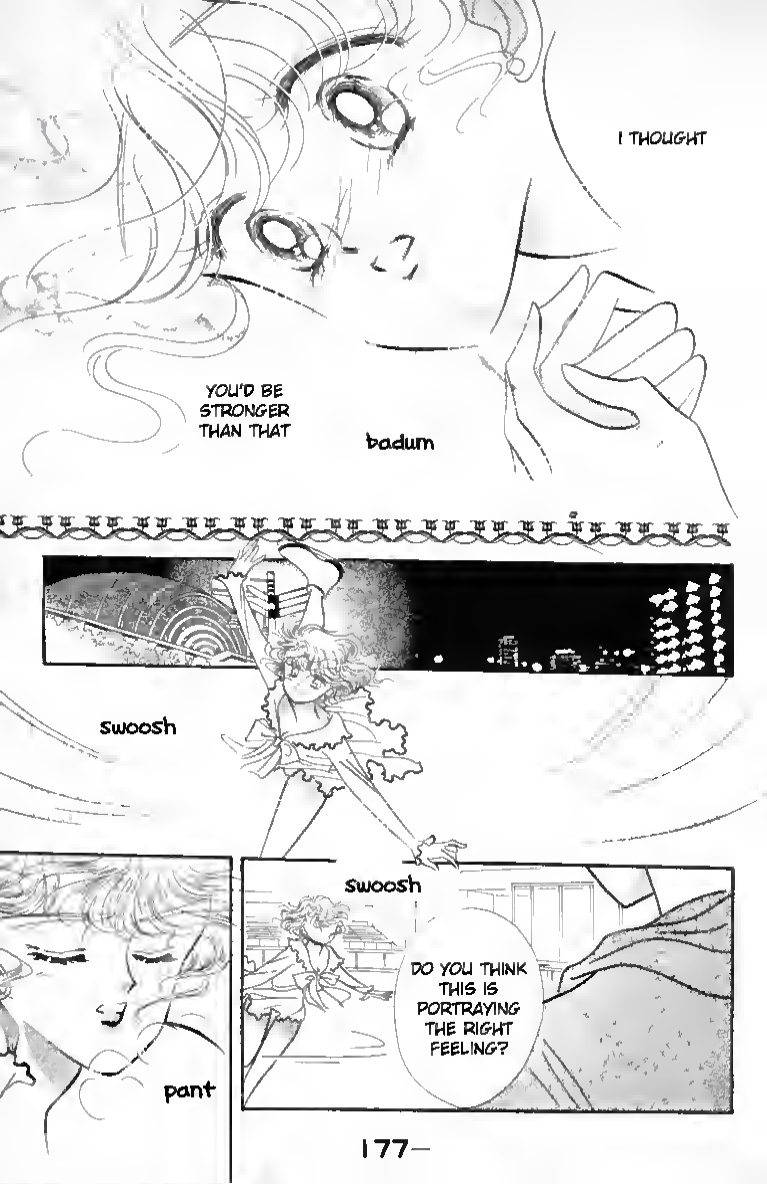
WE WON'T
HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH TSUZUKI ANYMORE
BESIDES, I DON'T
YUNI, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT. THE CHERRY PROJECT DISBANDED AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL

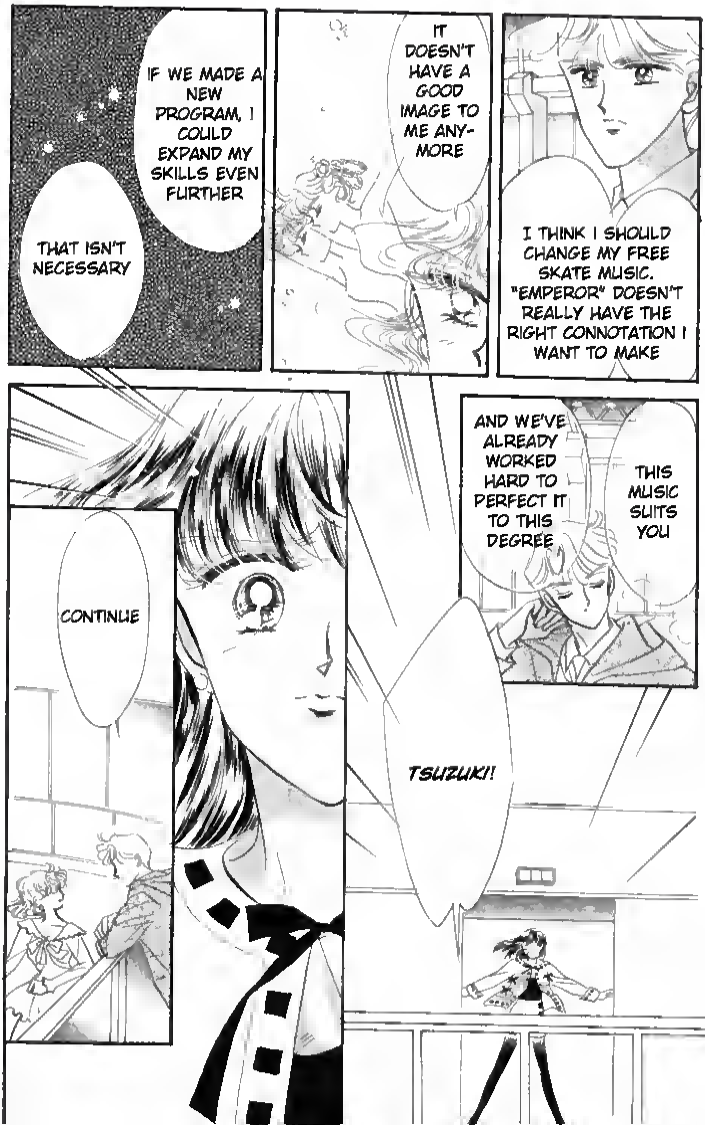
RUIN HER LIKE THIS

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IN TSUZUKI!
CHIERI

I'M ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU
BELIEVE IN HIM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BELIEVE IN HIM? WHAT ABOUT TSUZUKI AM I SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE IN?
I WANT HIM TO HOLD ME RIGHT AWAY
I WANT TO SEE HIM
BUT TSUZUKI
throb
I SEE. HE MUST HAVE BECOME THE PRINCESS'S COACH TO TRAIN HER TO BECOME HIS NEW PAIR SKATING PARTNER!


IT'S PROBABLY BETTER THAT I CAN'T SKATE ANYMORE
IT'LL JUST GET HIS HOPES UP
CHIERI!
DO ME A FAVOR. PLEASE DON'T TELL TSUZUKI THAT I CAN'T SKATE ANYMORE
I DON'T WANT HIM TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS
PLEASE
gasp
BUT YOU LIKE SKATING, DON'T YOU?
I SHOULD JUST QUIT SKATING ALTOGETHER. AND GIVE UP ON MY HOPES WITH TSUZUKI
badum
IT WOULD PLEASE ME IF YOU NEVER SAID YOU ARE GOING TO QUIT AGAIN


I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE STRONGER THAN THAT
badum
swoosh
swoosh
DO YOU THINK THIS IS PORTRAYING THE RIGHT FEELING?
pant


I THINK I SHOULD CHANGE MY FREE SKATE MUSIC. "EMPEROR" DOESN'T REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT CONNOTATION I WANT TO MAKE
IT DOESN'T HAVE A GOOD IMAGE TO ME ANY-MORE
IF WE MADE A NEW PROGRAM, I COULD EXPAND MY SKILLS EVEN FURTHER
THAT ISN'T NECESSARY
THIS MUSIC SUITS YOU
AND WE'VE ALREADY WORKED HARD TO PERFECT IT TO THIS DEGREE
TSUZUKI!
CONTINUE

CAN'T SKATE ANYMORE
CHIERI
I SEE
WHY?!
DO YOU PLAN TO JUST KEEP ON BEING THE PRprincess's COACH, AND THAT'S IT?!
I
WHY WON'T YOU GO TO SEE CHIERI, TO HELP HER THROUGH THIS?!
THATS... THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT?!

I BECAME HER COACH TO HELP CANTY IMPROVE HER LEVEL AS A SKATER, THAT'S MY ONLY INTENTION
I DON'T WANT ANY-THING TO DO YOU WITH YOU ANY-MORE, YOU JERK!
FINE!
THAT'S THE GOAL OF EVERY COACH
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT
swish
AND IT'S YOUR FAULT, TSUZUKI!!
CHIERI CAN'T SKATE ANYMORE!

dash
dash
BYE BYE
GOOD BYE
WOO!
AHAHA
YUNI?!
!

HE'S SO MEAN
TSUZUKI IS TOO COLD
YUNI
WEREN'T YOU JUST TELLING CHIERI SOMETHING?
AND POOR CHIERI ...
YOU SAID, BELIEVE IN TSUZKI
RIGHT NOW TSUZUKI IS
PUTTING HIS OWN DREAMS ON HOLD FOR CHIERI'S SAKE
I'M NOT GOING TO SEARCH FOR A PAIR SKATING PARTNER FOR A WHILE

I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO NOW.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND
I HAVE TO BREAK THAT GIRL OF HER HABIT OF BEING A COPYING MACHINE!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THAT! TSUIZUKI! WHAT ABOUT PAIR SKATING?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THE PRINCESS ASKED ME TO BE HER COACH

I'M NOT GOING TO TRAIN HER FOR PAIR SKATING
MY GOAL IS TO IMPROVE HER ABILITY AS A SINGLES SKATER
TSUZUKI HAS DECIDED TO FOCUS ON CHIERI INSTEAD
BUT RATHER THAN SPEND HIS PRECIOUS TIME FINDING A PAIR SKATING PARTNER
NOW IS THE ONLY TIME HE HAS
WHEN TSUZUKI STARTS HIGH SCHOOL, HE HAS TO QUIT SKATING
AND WE BELIEVE THAT HE DID THIS

BECAUSE SOMEDAY TSUZUKI
WANTS TO BE ABLE TO PAIR SKATE WITH CHIERI. THAT'S THE PATH HE'S CHOSEN
WE'LL ALL STICK BY CHIERI UNTIL THEN
RIGHT?
EVEN IF TSUZUKI CAN'T BE BY HER SIDE

I'VE COME BACK HERE AGAIN
DON'T OVER-WORK YOUR-SELF
TAKE A BREAK FROM PRACTICING FOR A WHILE, OKAY? AFTER YOU'VE HAD A BREAK WE'LL START UP AGAIN, ALL RIGHT?
TO THE RINK
pop
MY EARS
badum
click

panic
slip
badum
I CAN'T SKATE
badum
I THOUGHT
WHY?! WHY CAN'T I SKATE?!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY, THE RINK JUST KEEPS REJECTING ME
YOU'D BE STRONGER THAN THAT

badum
I'M SCARED
I'M NOT REALLY STRONG
AT ALL
I CAN'T SKATE
BUT WHY?!

UGH
I MAY NEVER SKATE AGAIN
HEY!
shock
HIROSHI !
gasp
CHIERI!

TSUZUKI?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3